

was asked what he would like to have known as a boy. His answer: "That when you get to the top, there's nothing there."

What's missing? When a person has so much and is still bitterly dissatisfied--even suicidal--what's not there? A relationship with God.

The Creator made us with a need for meaning and purpose and hope that only He can satisfy. He meets this need when we enter into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Trusting Jesus as Savior is the only way for anyone, successful or not, to find what's missing. --DCE

Only God can fill the emptiness of the human heart.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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What's Missing?

Christ . . . has begotten us again to a living hope. --1 Peter 1:3

Tennis star Boris Becker was at the very top of the tennis world--yet he was on the brink of suicide. He said, "I had won Wimbledon twice before, once as the youngest player. I was rich. I had all the material possessions I needed. . . . It's the old song of movie stars and pop stars who commit suicide. They have everything, and yet they are so unhappy. I had no inner peace. I was a puppet on a string."

Becker is not the only one to feel that sense of emptiness. The echoes of a hollow life pervade our culture. One doesn't have to read many contemporary biographies to find the same frustration and disappointment. Jack Higgins, author of such successful novels as *The Eagle Has Landed*,





I Peter: Overcoming Suffering The Resurrection: An Encouragement in Suffering

In 1 Peter 3:18-22 Peter makes 3 statements about the resurrection of Christ to encourage the suffering Christian:

1. Resurrection is a work of the

_____, verses 18-20, 1:3-4

(Romans 1:4) "... declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

(John 10:18) "... I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. ..."

(2 Corinthians 5:17) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

(Ephesians 2:4-5) "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),"

(1 Corinthians 15:20) "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

(1 Corinthians 15:22) "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

(Matthew 22:29-30) "... You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. {30} "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven."

(Genesis 6:1-2) "Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, {2} that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose."

(Genesis 6:5) "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

(Genesis 6:7) "So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, ..."



North Korean Persecution



Al Shabaab

2. Resurrection is pictured by _____, verse 21

(Romans 5:14) "... Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come."

(Romans 6:3-5) "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were

baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,"

3. Resurrection lead to _____ and _____, verse 22

(Romans 8:18) "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

(Romans 8:34) "Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."

(Ephesians 1:19-21) "... what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power {20} which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, {21} far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."

(Philippians 2:9-11) "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, {10} that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, {11} and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

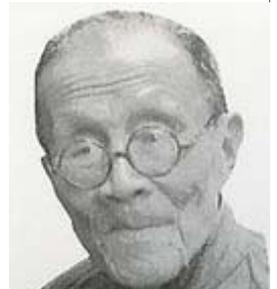
(Hebrews 1:3-4) "who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, {4} having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

(Hebrews 12:2) "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(Ephesians 6:12-18) "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. {13} Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. {14} Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, {15} and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; {16} above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. {17} And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; {18} praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;"

(1 Corinthians 15:29) "Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?"

(1 Corinthians 16:13) "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."



Wang Ming-dao