

➤ **The Confusion**

John 20:1-10 ... Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put Him!” ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying

➤ **The Crying**

John 20:11-15 ... ¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking He was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.”

➤ **The Celebration**

John 20:16 -18 ... ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that He had said these things to her.

The following is adapted from Charles Stanley. *The Triumphant Message of the Resurrection*
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We can all JOIN THE CELEBRATION because:

A. Jesus is alive.

1. As Christians, we believe Jesus rose from the dead because He was more than a prophet or good teacher--He was the Son of God.
2. Our risen Savior advocates for us (1 John 2:1); intercedes on our behalf (Rom. 8:34); enables us to live godly lives (John 14:16-17); and prepares an eternal home for us (John 14:2-3).

B. We are forgiven.

1. Our sins are forgiven--not based on our good works, but because of Jesus’ death on the cross.

2. By raising Jesus from the dead, God validated everything Christ had said, including His claim to be the Son of God.

C. We are going to live forever.

1. For believers, physical death is the end of all suffering, temptation, and disappointment, and it is the beginning of a new existence in the presence of God.
2. At death, our spirits leave our bodies and are immediately in the presence of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).
3. Eternal life, by definition, is everlasting (John 3:16). That means you and I cannot lose what the Father has given us in Jesus Christ. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit as God's children (Eph. 1:13-14).

D. We will have a resurrected body.

1. After the resurrection, Jesus' body was glorified but still human. He ate food and the disciples were able to touch Him (Luke 24:41-43; John 20:27). Yet the Lord could also pass through walls and disappear in the blink of an eye (John 20:19; Luke 24:30-31).
2. The Bible teaches that one day we, too, will have new, glorified bodies (Rom. 8:23).

E. We will see and know our loved ones.

1. Relationships are important to God. Scripture tells us that husbands are to love their wives; children are a blessing from the Lord; Christians are to love and care for others, especially fellow believers.
2. Because the Father created relationships, it's likely that God will allow our earthly relationships with other Christians to continue and develop in eternity, though we won't have marriage as we now know it (Matt. 22:30). Remember that the disciples recognized Jesus after His resurrection".

F. Heaven will be our eternal home with God the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit and all the Saints of the Ages

1. We will live forever in a perfect existence on a new earth. This planet will be renewed—transformed into a paradise similar to the Garden of Eden in its purity, beauty, and eternal nature.
2. In our resurrected bodies, we will serve, love, worship, and praise the Lord forever. We can look forward to purposeful and joyful activity in the His presence. (Adapted from: Charles Stanley. 2013. *The Triumphant Message of the Resurrection*. InTouch Ministries)