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## A Story of Hope on a Sunday

Why do Christians celebrate Easter Sunday? I offer below what I think the reason why this is a very special day to them: Jesus rose from the dead after His crucifixion. He rose from the grave.

The resurrection of Jesus was a glorious day for Christians because they believe in a God who was alive and still is. This glorious event is unique and part of God's plan for humanity.

When Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, His mission of hope began. When His mission on earth was finally launched with the message of love and salvation, the mission was fully assured. When He was taken away on one Friday, struck and crucified by Roman soldiers, the mission could not be stopped. When His blood was spilled and He died on the cross, His mission was accomplished. All was finished! When He came back to life on the Sunday that followed, His mission was fulfilled.

Let me elaborate a little bit more on the sequence of the two Easter events. On that Friday when Jesus was crucified and died, the hope His followers had held onto seemed indefinitely lost. His body was taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb.

Although endless attempts have been made by atheists to refute the existence of Jesus, scientists, archeologists and historians agree that the story about His burial is true. According to one article by Kristin Romey published in 2016 (Geographic National), "Researchers have continued their investigation into the site where the body of Jesus Christ is traditionally believed to have been buried, and their preliminary findings appear to confirm that portions of the tomb are still present today."

Science may never be able to prove or disprove Jesus' resurrection, but there is enough evidence to support the story. Although atheists and skeptics have their reason to question the validity of any Christian claim about the resurrection, evidence by the Apostle Paul is quite compelling. Once a murderer of believers in Jesus, he wrote about how and why he made a U-turn in his spiritual journey: he heard the voice of the resurrected Jesus asking why he was persecuting Him (Acts 9:4). Only several years younger than Jesus, he did what social scientists do today: recording what (500) eyewitnesses said (1 Corinthians 15:3-9).

That Sunday marks the ultimate day of hope. There may not be evidence sufficient to convince unbelievers, but enough evidence indicates Paul would not have given his life for something in which he didn't believe. More evidence can be presented, but my spiritual journey is not too different from Paul's.