

LIVING IN EXILE

¹ Peter 3:18-22 – Saved from Judgment

May 8, 2016

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God... **-1 Peter 3:18**

I. THE RIGHTEOUS FOR THE UNRIGHTEOUS

- Jesus committed no sin, yet he died because of it (Isa. 53:4-6; Matt. 26:26-28; John 1:29; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Pet. 2:22).
- Jesus died “once” for sin: one righteous act to atone for billions of unrighteous acts—and to bring us to God (Matt. 27:51; Heb. 1:3; 7:26-27; 9:24-28; 10:10-12).
- “Alive in the spirit” most probably means that although Jesus died bodily, his spirit remained with God (Luke 23:46).

II. JESUS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

- Verses 19-20 are controversial texts that have led to much speculation throughout historic Christianity. I believe it addresses the Spirit of Jesus proclaiming salvation through Noah to the people of his day (1 Pet. 4:6; 2 Pet. 2:5, 8).
- Not everyone receives the gospel, even when righteous people (Noah) or even God himself (Jesus) proclaims it to them. Only eight were saved in Noah’s day; many others rejected the gospel in Jesus’ day (Matt. 7:21-23; 22:14; Acts 1:15).

III. BAPTISM SAVES US?

- Vs. 21 tells us that baptism saves us in the same way the ark saved Noah’s family; it wasn’t the ark itself, but God’s grace. The ark was the visible representation of that grace (Gen. 6:14; 7:1).
- Water baptism is the sign that one has appealed to God and has been saved by Christ’s atoning work (Acts 2:38).

IV. CHRISTUS VICTOR

- The powers of darkness have been soundly defeated by Christ at the cross, who reigns now in power (Rom. 8:34; Col. 2:15).

KNOW: Jesus is eternal, and his Spirit has been at work not only in our time, but in all times. Christ, via the Spirit, has secured our salvation and has triumphed over all of his, and our, enemies.

DO: Stand into your victory through Christ.

Suggested Reading:

Victory of the Lamb: Triumph over Sin, Death, and Satan, by Fred Leahy
It Is Well: Expositions on Substitutionary Atonement, 9Marks Publishing

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 3:18-22

1. Talk a bit about vs. 18 - substitutionary atonement. What happened, exactly, at the cross that secured our salvation?
2. What are your thoughts on the different views concerning verses 19-20? Does Pastor Jym’s take on the verses make sense to you? Do you agree, disagree, or are you indifferent?
3. What has been the importance of your baptism in your own life?
4. Peter makes it clear that Jesus has triumphed over every power through his death and resurrection. What does that mean for us as believers?
5. Peter tells us that God patiently waited in Noah’s day, and yet Genesis 6:12-13 tells us that God had determined to destroy all human life on the earth. So which is it; is God patient as Peter says, or not? How do we come to this conclusion?
6. Jesus is at God’s “right hand.” What does that mean for us as followers of Christ? What assurances does this give us?
7. What application is there from this difficult text from Sunday for your own life?