



SUFFERING IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit ... v. 18

I. _____ changes how we see our suffering.

... in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. vv. 19-20

3 MAJOR INTERPRETATIONS OF 1 PETER 3:19-20

The preaching a second chance view

The announcement to fallen angels view

The warning through Noah view

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. vv. 21-22

II. _____ in the gospel changes how we experience our suffering.

In our suffering we should be _____ by Christ's victory, power and position.
... and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. v. 22a

In our suffering we should be _____ by Christ's own suffering.
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous ... v. 18b

In our suffering we should be _____ by Christ's nearness.
... that he might bring us to God ... v. 18c

HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read 1 Peter 3:18-22. Peter wrote (2 Pet 3:16) that some of the things Paul wrote in his letters were "hard to understand" and that "the ignorant and unstable" would "twist [them] to their own destruction" How might this also apply to Peter's own message here in these verses?

2. The first paragraph (vv. 13-17) was mainly about our life, but this paragraph (vv. 18-22) is mainly about our Jesus—His death, resurrection and ascension. What do you learn about His ministry from these three actions? About suffering?

3. Who were the spirits to whom Christ made a proclamation? Why is it important?

4. What's the relationship between Peter's readers today and Noah's ministry?

5. Noah's experiences foreshadowed Christian baptism. How is baptism like Noah's experience? (Read about Noah in Genesis 6:9–9:17).

6. Verse 21 says that baptism saves you not by removing physical dirt but by illustrating your "appeal [*response*, NLT] to God for a good conscience." Read Romans 6:3-7. How does baptism ...

identify you with Jesus' resurrection?

appeal to God for a good conscience?

7. Peter seems to move through the thoughts in this passage by free association instead of step-by-step logic, but he follows a general structure: *Do this* (vv. 8-9, 14-17) *for these reasons* (vv. 10-13, 18-22). Now that you've studied this passage a bit more closely, summarize in one or two sentences what seem to be its main points. How does these points impact suffering as a believer today?

HELPFUL Quotes

In Christ's day, the spirits of those men to whom Noah had preached were in prison, for they had rejected the message of Noah. They had gone into Sheol. They were waiting for judgment; they were lost. But Christ did not go down and preach to them after He died on the cross. He preached through Noah "when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah." For 120 years Noah had preached the Word of God. He saved his family but no one else. It was the Spirit of Christ who spoke through Noah in Noah's day. In Christ's day, those who rejected Noah's message were in prison. The thought is that Christ's death meant nothing to them just as it means nothing to a great many people today who, as a result, will also come into judgment. - J. Vernon McGee

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus preached to those disobedient people who did not believe the message of Noah even though God was demonstrating patience during the delay while the ark was being built. The spirits of those who perished in the flood are now in prison. Those who did believe were brought safely through the flood in the ark by means of the water. Just as that water in Noah's day protected those who believed from physical destruction, so baptism now protects those who believe from having the testimony of a "good conscience" destroyed. That baptism does not remove sin and guilt but it does provide the answer of an appropriate awareness to God based upon the knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. - Mark Bailey

Many people who hold to infant baptism appeal to this verse in support of their belief. ... The problem with this interpretation, from my viewpoint, is that Scripture nowhere else makes baptism a condition for salvation. In fact it consistently warns against adding anything to faith in Christ for salvation. Circumcision did not save children under the Old Covenant nor does baptism under the New Covenant. Circumcision expressed the faith of the parents. Abraham received the sign of circumcision to demonstrate his faith, not to safeguard his children (Gen 17). - Tom Constable

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!