



CHRIST BRINGS US TO GOD

1 Peter 3:18-24

November 17, 2024

Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning Church! Peter encourages his readers in their suffering by again reminding them even Christ suffered unjustly because it was God's will. **v 17** Ultimately, however, Christ was marvelously triumphant to the point of being exalted to the right hand of God.

READ, 1 Peter 3:18-22

*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, **19** in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20** 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. **21** 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, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him."*

1. Jesus SUFFERED for Our Sins Resulting in His Physical DEATH and Our Spiritual LIFE. (v 18)

- Jesus' Death is SUFFICIENT for Us and No Further SACRIFICES are Necessary.

"Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last." **Luke 23:46**

2. Jesus EMPOWERS Believers to Preach EFFECTIVELY to Unbelievers. (v 19-20)

A. Christ announced His VICTORY over sin and death to ANGELIC spirits in HELL.

B. Christ announced His VICTORY over sin and death to HUMAN spirits in HELL.

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment"

2 Peter 2:4

*"And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day" **Jude 6***

In larger context:

- A call to live RIGHTEOUS in the midst of the WICKED world. (v 13-14, 16-17)
- A call to WITNESS boldly to those around us and be willing to SUFFER to bring others to God. (v 14, 16-18)
- God WAITS patiently for unbelievers to REPENT before judgment comes. (v 20)
- Christ SAVES believers and has TRIUMPHED over all things. (v 21-22)

3. The Act of BAPTISM Symbolizes the Reality of SALVATION by Faith in Jesus Christ.
(v 21-22)

- Our baptism is a REFLECTION and RESPONSE to Jesus' REDEMPTIVE work of His grace.

“Baptism is an appropriate symbol for the beginning of the Christian life. Once we understand baptism in this way, we can appreciate why “repent and be baptized ... for the forgiveness of your sins” was an evangelistic command in the early church.”

Wayne Grudem