

The Living Christ and His Victorious Work

1 Peter 3:18b-22

1. The Living Christ “Put to death in the flesh, Made Alive in the Spirit”

- Christ’s earthly life was extinguished...died in the flesh, by the hands of men.
- He was made alive in the Spirit, to give us life.
- He ascended to heaven...we have a steadfast hope.
- When Christians suffer and die for their faith, God will raise them up.
- “spirits”: - fallen angels, banished to prison, awaiting final judgement **OR**
 - unsaved human spirits of Noah’s day (**more consistent with text**)
- Why? i) Noah: - “a herald of righteous” (2 Pet. 2:5) - “preacher”
 - Christ’s Spirit in OT prophets (1Pet. 1:10,11)
 - ii) Context of suffering: As Noah was persecuted, and then saved in the ark, so are the present believers experiencing persecution, but their salvation is in Christ. (Heb. 11:7) Those who persecute and reject Christ – JUDGEMENT.
- Christ is patient; he uses suffering Christians as witnesses to conquer a lost world.
- Noah’s escape from judgement – the Ark. This is a picture of baptism, a sign of our eternal security in Christ.

2) Baptism: Sign of our Deliverance & Triumph in the Living Christ

- Ark: sign of our faith in Christ
- Baptism: sign of our union with Christ
- Baptism and Ark: believers are saved through the waters of judgment.
- Christian is brought through waters of death and destruction, to be established on and made secure in the resurrected Christ.
- “Appeal”/pledge of a good conscience: at baptism, we affirm God’s judgment on sin; to turn from our commitment to Christ would also lead to judgement.
- Baptism: cleansing; the believer’s union with Christ in His death and resurrection.
- Believers have no reason to fear! Christ is triumphant over all.
- So live in godly submission, with joy, We belong to the Lord of glory!!!