

3:17-18

For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, Our motivation for continuing on through this is that Our Lord did it before us: **suffered** for those in His house (see context beginning in 3:8).

the just for the unjust, so though He **suffered for sins**, they were not His **sins**. Furthermore, if you are not **unjust** then no **just Christ** died in your place. The pure one died for the putrefying; the Correct One for the corrupt; the innocent for the guilty; the blameless for the shameless.

that He might bring us to God, This is reconciliation. We see why we must be first convinced of our wrongness before we can appreciate this reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 speaks of this very thing, and we are glad. Colossians 1:20 again states that all that must be done has been done.

being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, If we stopped right here, I might agree with the Jehovah's Witnesses who believe Jesus was merely raised in **the Spirit**.¹ Some would say this is simply saying "by the power of the Spirit he was raised from the dead and proclaimed victory over demonic spirits."²

3:19-22

by whom also He went and preached to the spirits Other than maybe a reference in Hebrews 12 this is the only reference that may have been to what we normally called "evil **spirits**" in the NT.

in prison, which ones? Which **spirits**? The ones who drowned in Noah's flood (verse 20). One thing is certain: the point of this passage is not to defend the type of body Jesus had on day 3, but rather to describe what Jesus did when He was dead.

20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, The same **flesh** Jesus had in verse 18.

but the answer of a good conscience toward God), Verse 16 tells us this is the major thrust of this "salvation". One didn't deserve a **good conscience toward God** not partaking in the one and only NT "act" of conversion confirmation in the face of suffering.

¹Of course, if all I had was verse 19, I'd be a Mormon; if all I had was verse 21, I'd be a Church of Christ, and if I only had 4:1, I'd be from the First Church of the Nazarene.

² Thomas R. Schreiner, [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#), vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 180.