

1 **The Just for the Unjust**

1 Peter 3:18-22

2 **What Peter told us (3:10-17)**

- Be passionate for good
- Be pliable in suffering (remember that good can come from suffering)
- Make a place for Christ (put His will first)
- Be prepared to share your faith
- Maintain a pure conscience

3 **1 Peter 3:18-20**

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

4 **1 Peter 3:19-22**

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

5 **Jesus – the best example!**

- He suffered for doing what was right (2:14).
- His sinless life provoked the unjust hostilities of evil men.
- He did not fear men but trusted Himself to His Father.
- Christ clearly stated His purpose and committed Himself to a course of action.
- He died in mankind's place, keeping His conscience clear (cf. 2:23).

6 **The atonement
summarized**

1 Peter 3:18

7 **The atoning distress**

- *περὶ ἁμαρτιῶν* (*peri harmtiōn*)
 - "for sins" is the phrase used in the Septuagint to refer to the sin offering for atonement
 - Jesus is the ultimate Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) offering.
- Jesus SUFFERED for OUR sins – "the just for the unjust"
 - *πάσχω* -- Christ experienced the ultimate form of suffering in the crucifixion

8 **The stark difference**

- *Yom Kippur* happened every year
 - It expiated (covered over) the sins of God's people for another year
 - It was a picture that had to be repeated but it had no permanent effect
 - During the year, there were other sin offerings as well
- But Jesus died "once for all."

- His one death ended the sacrificial system
- His death is sufficient for all time and all people

9 **Key concept**

- Christ's death is SUFFICIENT for all mankind but EFFICIENT (working and taking effect) only in those who receive Him as Savior and Lord
- Numbers 21:8 -- *And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten (Sufficiency), when he looketh upon it (Efficiency), shall live.*
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10 **The substitutionary death**

- δίκαιος ὑπὲρ ἀδίκων – *the righteous in place of the unrighteous*
 - As the Righteous One, Jesus was uniquely qualified to be a perfect sacrifice
 - The Paschal lamb had to be male, without blemish, and had to be examined for 4 days before it was slaughtered (because it had to be perfect)

11 **The divine determination**

- The Divine purpose of Christ's death was to bring people to God
- The Father determined this purpose *before the foundation of the world* (Ephesians 1:4)
 - Before the world began, YOU were on the heart and mind of God!

12 **Two Gospel keys**

- Christ died in the flesh
 - He didn't swoon – the Roman soldiers verified His death by sending a spear through his ribs up into His heart
- He was "quickened" (made alive) by the Spirit
 - A reference to the Holy Spirit of God being the agent of the bodily resurrection of Jesus
- There is no Good News without both the death AND resurrection of Jesus.

13 **A mysterious announcement**

1 Peter 3:19-20

14 **A preaching appointment**

- After Christ's death, but before His bodily resurrection, Christ *preached to the spirits in prison*.
- A false view
 - Mormons and some others teach that Christ went and preached to people in Hell to give them a second chance for salvation
 - There is NO scriptural support for this view. *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* (Hebrews 9:27)

15 **To whom did He preach?**

- Christ preached to the spirits in prison, not souls.
 - Spirits refers to angels
 - The plural "spirits" is used only once of men in the NT (*the spirits of just men made perfect* – Hebrews 12:23)

- Always refers to angels elsewhere in NT
- Souls refer to people
 - 3:20 -- *Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*
- Peter distinguishes between the two

16 **Who are these spirits?**

- Associated with the corruption of men before the flood
 - Genesis 6:1-3 -- *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*
 - Fallen angels (demons) possessed men to utterly corrupt them until God determined their destruction

17 **Can demons be in prison?**

- Jude 6 -- *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*
 - Some demons who indwelt men before the Flood were imprisoned until the day of final judgment (unlike other demons who left one life to inhabit another)
- Revelation 9:1-12 indicates demons will be released from the bottomless pit during the Tribulation to afflict unrepentant men

18 **What kind of preaching?**

- Peter uses the word *kērussō* (κηρύσσω) which means "to be a herald", "to proclaim"
 - Not quite the same meaning as *euangelizo* – *to evangelize (to give the Gospel message)*
- Christ is announcing his victory over Satan, sin, and the host of fallen demons
 - By His death and resurrection

19 **What did He preach?**

- Colossians 2:14 -- *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

20 **When did Christ do this?**

- Some scholars believe that Christ's resurrection was the "sermon" announcing His victory
- I think it was between His death and resurrection
- Another passage helps shed light on this:
 - Ephesians 4:8-9 -- *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)*

21 **A little more background**

- In story about the rich man and Lazarus (not a parable) – Luke 16:19-31
 - Luke 16:26 -- *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come*

from thence.

22 **Sheol**

- In the Old Testament, the place of the dead was called Sheol.
 - Psalm 16:10 -- *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.* (KJV)
 - Psalm 16:10 -- *for you will not abandon my soul to Sheol; you will not give your faithful one to see the grave.* (LEB)

23 **Sheol had 2 compartments**

- Paradise
 - Jesus said to the thief, "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise" (not heaven)
 - Those who died in a relationship with God went here prior to Christ's resurrection
- Hell / Gehenna / Tartarus
 - Those who die without God go here when they die

24 **A picture**

25 **Paradise no longer exists**

- Paradise was only for pre-resurrection saints (those who had a relationship with YHWH)
 - When Christ died, he preached to the spirits in Tartarus / hell / Gehenna to announce His victory
 - But then, Ephesians 4:8 -- *Therefore it says, "Ascending on high he led captivity captive; he gave gifts to men."*
 - He took the redeemed in Paradise to be in His presence in heaven at the resurrection

26 **Where do Christians go?**

- When a Christian dies now (after the resurrection of Christ), he immediately goes to be in the presence of God
 - 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 -- *Therefore, although we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we live by faith, not by sight—so we are confident and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*
- Both OT and NT saints are now in the presence of God

27 **Where do the lost go?**

- To the only compartment of Sheol that still exists – Hell / Gehenna / Tartarus
- A place of suffering
- While "hell" is commonly used as an eternal place of torment, it is not
 - Revelation 20:13-14 -- *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*
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28 **Example of Noah**

29 **The ark, a picture**

- A picture of Christ
 - All were doomed to die in Flood
 - All given a chance to repent
 - Only those in the Ark survived
 - Once the door was shut, no more could be saved

30 **Baptism, another picture**

- Church of Christ believes baptism is necessary for salvation
- But Peter is clear:
 - 1 Peter 3:21 -- *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
 - Baptism doesn't cleanse us or save us. It is the ANSWER of a redeemed conscience.

31 **Noah, a preacher**

- Noah preached for the better part of 120 years
 - Preached that judgment was coming
 - Preached that repentance was necessary
 - Preached that God had a plan to save
- Noah suffered ridicule for what he and his family did, but they were saved
- Likewise, we should be faithful to proclaiming the Gospel regardless of men's opinions

32 **Christ in Glory!**

33 **Reigning in glory**

- Having mentioned the resurrection again in 3:21, Peter's attention snaps back to Christ in His current role.
 - Christ has gone into heaven (having carried the saints from Paradise there)
 - Christ has received His reward for faithfulness – *and is on the right hand of God*
 - Full authority – Sovereign, Ruling and reigning over all creation (including angels, authorities, and powers)
 - Enthroned
 - Exalted

34 **What does it mean for us?**

- Be willing to suffer for proclaiming the Gospel
 - It has a great reward – to rule and reign with Christ
 - Our suffering is a momentary affliction
 - When we suffer for righteousness is when we are most Christ-like
- Remember that Christ has won the victory already!
- Be baptized as a testimony that Christ redeemed you
- Tell others about Christ – to avoid the Lake of Fire
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