

Brought Near to God

1 Peter 3:18-22

(We should be willing to suffer for doing good because...)

1. Christ also _____ (v. 18)
 - a. Once for _____
 - b. The righteous for the _____
 - c. To _____
 - d. That He should _____ you to God
(After being _____ in the Spirit)
2. Christ _____ (v. 19-20)
 - a. In the _____
 - b. To the _____ in prison
 - i. Those who did not _____
 - ii. When God's _____ waited
 - iii. In the days of _____
3. Christ _____ (v. 20b-21)
 - a. The _____ and baptism
 - b. How baptism " _____ "
 - i. Not the _____ itself
 - ii. But the _____ reality
 - iii. Through the _____
4. Christ _____ (v. 22)
 - a. With the _____ of God
 - b. Over all _____

For Further Study

Brought Near to God

1 Peter 3:18-22

This text only makes sense within its context. These are additional reasons for the believer to be willing to suffer for righteousness' sake, primarily because of the example of Christ.

Read 1 Peter 2:21-24.

One author called our text a cousin to this text in chapter two. What is the point of these together in context?

Read Hebrews 9:25-28.

1. In what way are we unable to suffer as Jesus did?
2. Why is Jesus' suffering not just an example but a consolation for the suffering believer?

Read Romans 5:1-5

1. Peter says we are "brought to God" and Paul says "we have obtained access through Him by faith."
2. How does this prompt us to be willing to suffer?

Verses 19-20 is able to give us indigestion if we try to figure it all out. Genesis 6, 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 may be helpful.

1. The Greek word for "spirits" always refers to non-human good or evil spiritual beings in the New Testament. The word for people is also in this passage – "souls." Hence it is likely that "spirits" does not refer to people.
2. The word "evangelize" is not used but the word "preach." What do you think Jesus preached to these "spirits?"
3. Why would Jesus preaching to them (and subjecting them to Himself – v. 22) be a comfort to suffering believers?

Verse 21 – Key Thought – Does baptism save? Baptism is an "antitype;" a reality of the symbol of the ark. By faith (a pledge of good conscience") through the resurrection, we are saved!

- How is the spiritual reality of baptism, then, like the ark?