

1 Peter - Week 19

The Sufferings of Christ

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ [the Messiah Himself] died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous (the Just for the unjust, the Innocent for the guilty), that He might bring us to God. In His human body He was put to death, but He was made alive in the spirit, 19 In which He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 [The souls of those] who long before in the days of Noah had been disobedient, when God's patience waited during the building of the ark in which a few [people], actually eight in number, were saved through water.21 And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanness and peace) before God [because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 22[And He] has now entered into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with [all] angels and authorities and powers made subservient to Him AMP

The cross is that point in history where ETERNITY merged with time.

Three different ministries: CHRIST, NOAH, & CHRISTIANS.

I. The Ministry of Christ

- Peter now turns to the supreme EXAMPLE: the suffering of Christ.
- Jesus is the perfect example of handling suffering with great dignity and FAITH.

His suffering had purpose:

1. It was REDEMPTIVE.
2. His ATONEMENT was vicarious “done for another”.
It means to gain AUDIENCE at court.
3. It was a RESCUE mission.
God knew the MYSTERY of iniquity.
4. It required an EXCHANGE.

All our guilt, sin, suffering, and SHAME would be transferred to Him. All His HOLINESS, righteousness, goodness, and acceptance would be transferred to us.

Several exchanges need to take place in every believer’s life.

- Fear must be exchanged for FAITH.
- Flesh must be exchanged for a fresh ENCOUNTER with the Holy Spirit. We need a new touch from the Spirit of God. We must take a fresh new look at God and an HONEST look at ourselves.

- We need to exchange our fondness of the world's way for the FRIENDSHIP with God.

The difference in the OT sacrifice and Jesus' sacrifice was the OT lamb's blood only COVERED the sin, but the blood of Christ cleansed and also CANCELLED the sin.

This not only gives us salvation, it also gives us the ability to put our own FLESH to death.

I believe He went into Hades and declared His victory over SATAN and DEATH.

Three things about the ministry of Jesus and the resurrection:

1. Jesus declares finally, He is GOD.
2. The work of the cross is complete and ACCEPTABLE to the Father.
3. Finally, death has been CONQUERED.

II. The Ministry of Noah

- Noah was a preacher of RIGHTEOUSNESS during a very difficult time in history.
- Noah was also a man of faith even when it looked like his ministry was a FAILURE.
- The flood was a picture of BAPTISM.
- Baptism does save us from a bad CONSCIENCE.

III. The Ministry of Christians Today

- Christians must expect OPPOSITION.
- Christians must serve God by faith and NOT trust in results.
- Christ's victory of death and the grave should only ENCOURAGE us to remain faithful.
- Jesus is the only way to God, so we must be as FAITHFUL as Noah to preach and teach the Gospel.