



The Glory of Christ's Sufferings
12th in the "Elect Exiles" Series
1 Peter 3:18-22 p. 1016
February 11, 2018

Introduction

In this passage God explains how Christian suffering is explained by and joined to Jesus' victorious sufferings.

The Text: 1 Peter 3:18-22

1) If you think Christianity prevents suffering or can't handle it, then look at Christ (v. 18).

a) Suffering will not be fair or just ("the righteous for the unrighteous")

b) Suffering can have significant purpose ("that he might bring us to God")

c) Suffering physically is not the most important thing ("put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit").

2) Christ's suffering declared his glorious victory over all things and guarantees our participation in his resurrection and reign (vv. 19-22).

a) Christ proclaimed the victory of God over all spiritual powers (v. 19).

b) Christ declared judgment to those who oppose God and victorious salvation to those who believe in him (v. 20a).

c) Christ's suffering protects the church from the wrath of God, just as Noah's family was safely resting upon the same water that judged the rest of the world (vv. 20b-21).

d) Christ now sits victorious over all things, reigning from the throne of God (v. 22).

Response

- Why are Christ's sufferings glorious?
 - ...because they reveal the grace and love of God for us.
 - ...because they declare Jesus to be the resurrected, reigning Lord of all things!
 - ...and because they give purpose and power to our sufferings for Christ.

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Peter 3:18-22

February 11, 2018

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: How might a Christian suffer for Christ in modern America, even in the Stateline area?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How does v. 18 offer a rich summary of the doctrine of atonement (i.e., the reconciliation between God and humanity through Jesus Christ)?
- 4) How does v. 18 suggest that the suffering Christians face may be unjust (“the righteous for the unrighteousness”) and yet purposeful (“that he might bring us to God”)?
- 5) Two of the most difficult verses in the Bible are vv. 19-20. What so these verses seems to be talking about on the surface? How do some (like your pastor) say that these verses explain how Christ declared through his death and resurrection victory over the evil spirits/angels – all opponents of God?
- 6) How does this text help explain the statement we regularly proclaim in the Apostles Creed: “He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty?” How might this “descent to announce victory” fit in with the rest of the creed?
- 7) V. 20 is using typology, which sees relatable “patterns” between people and events across the Bible. How is Noah and his family a “type” of the family of God, and water a “type” of judgment and salvation? How does such an understanding help explain this passage?
- 8) There is a logical connection between “water” and “baptism.” Why did Peter bring up baptism here, and how does the end of v. 21 (about the resurrection) make clear that it is not baptism that saves but the power of Jesus Christ?
- 9) How might this passage make the ordinance of baptism a serious, biblically-mandated event that should not be neglected by a believer?
- 10) How does v. 22 and its depiction of the resurrected, reigning Christ give comfort to Christians as they live and even suffer in this world?

Further study this week: Num 21:4-9 with an item that both judges and saves – like water (Mon); Rev 5 on Jesus as the Slain Lamb, the Suffering King (Tues); Rom 5:1-11 on rejoicing in our suffering (Wed); 2 Cor 4:7-18 on suffering with power (Thurs); 1 Pet 1:3-9 on the purpose of suffering (Fri).