

“1st Peter #9”

1st Peter 3:18-22 (Christ suffering and ours)

Review: 1st Peter 3:10-17 (NKJV)

1st Peter 3:11-12 (NKJV) Read

- Reading these verses of scripture, you may get the idea that we are made righteous by our works or by our deeds.
- *But bible revelation is: **We are made willing to do the will of God by the power of the H.S. coupled by God’s grace and mercy.** H.S. guides us into all truth.*
- (Greek-H.S.) Paraclete: “Advocate, Counsellor, or Helper”

Philippians 2:12-13... (ESV) *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presents but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*

1st Peter 3:13-15 (NKJV) Read...

- These verse’s speak to our response to suffering and persecution.

Matthew 5:10 *“Blessed are those that are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.”*

- I believe that Verse 15 is the key verse on how we are to respond... (Read)
- (ESV) *“In your hearts, honor Christ the Lord as holy” ...*
- (NKJV) *“Sanctify the Lord in your hearts...” Lit: “Set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts.”*

1st Peter 3:16-17 (ESV) Read

- It is better to suffer for doing good... Because sometimes it is Gods will for us to suffer for doing good... *I don’t claim to understand all the reasons!*

V18 *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God. Being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...” (ESV)*

Tonight: Need to give a caveat! (This is a hard one to teach)

Text – 1st Peter 3:18-22 (NASB) Read...

- Verse 18... *"Being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."*

One interpretation: "In the flesh" means in the visible, physical realm in which Jesus was crucified... "In the spirit" means in the invisible, spiritual realm where Jesus now lives. (V19)

- Read V's 18 and 19 as one, without separation...

****Chapter 4: 5-6 (Read)... (NKJV) (NASB)...**

****Ephesians 2:1,5** *"We were dead in trespasses' and sin, He has made us alive in Christ."*

Second interpretation: It simply means that Jesus died physically but was raised from the dead by the H.S. (Based on the gospel's, we know this to be true)

**Peter was well aware of Jesus' bodily resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and to 120 in the upper room, instructed them to wait for the baptism of the H.S. (Resurrected Body)*

**I believe, Peter was simply stating the truth that Jesus is now in the Spirit, and we too will live in the Spirit for eternity. Based on the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior...*

- Verse 19-20... There is much debate on the meaning / interpretation as to who these spirits in prison are? (Three views)
- Greek: pneuma (spirit) can be singular or plural and it can mean human spirits or angels, depending on the context...

#1. Spirit's (Greek – pneumasin, plural) *is understood to be referring to unsaved human spirits of Noah's day (V20) through Noah, unbelievers heard Christ preaching "in the spirit" (V18) "Those that did not obey in the days of Noah, are now suffering judgement in prison. The context indicates that Christ was preaching through Noah. In which few were saved, brought safely through water. (21) Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you...*

- 2nd Peter 2:4-5 (Read) *"Noah, a preacher of righteousness..."*
- 1st Peter 1:10-12 (Read) *"The Spirit of Christ within the prophets." (as well as in Noah)*

#2 **Spirits** are understood to mean fallen angels who were cast into hell to await final judgement... quote Gen.6:2-4 they say the “sons of God” are angles who sinned by cohabiting with human woman. *“when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah” (V20)* also they indicate, almost without exception in the N.T. spirits (plural) refers to supernatural beings rather than people. Also, the word prison is not used elsewhere in Scripture as a place of punishment after death for human beings, while it is used for Satan. (Rev.20:7)

- Throughout church history, there has been and still is much controversy over these interpretations.

My question: Why does Peter refer to Noah so much?... I’m not sure...

#3 Some have advocated the idea that Christ offered a second chance of salvation to those in hell. Which is in direct contradiction with scripture and the rest of 1st Peter!

So, what is our take away... V18, 21...

After His resurrection: Jesus instructs His disciples...

Matthew 28:16-20 (Read) *“Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them... all that I commanded you...”*

Creeds... early church was a verbal transfer of doctrine and truth... person to person discipleship, preaching and teaching within their assembles and synagogues. Literacy was uncommon. Disciples taught what they saw, heard and experienced from Jesus + the O.T. scriptures.

They taught with authority from Jesus and in demonstration of God’s power