

Baptized into Christ

1 Peter 3:18-22

Colossians 1:15-23

Matthew 24:36-51



1 Peter: A Letter to Saints

- Peter: an apostle of Jesus Christ with the same authority as Christ.
 - ★ If one rejects/ignores Peter they reject Christ. Those who reject Christ reject the Father. (Luke 10:16)
- Peter was/is writing to the "elect/chosen of God". (Eph 1:3-5 2 Thess 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:28-30, 33; 11:5-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:9)

We Are Warned of Persecution

- John 15:18-20; Luke 14:16-28; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12; Philippians 1:29

Living in a Hostile World: Submission NOT Rebellion

- ➔ Submit to unjust governments. (1 Peter 2:13-17)
- ➔ Submit to unjust employers/masters. (1 Peter 2:18-21a)
- ➔ Submit to one another in marriage. (1 Peter 3:1-7)

Christ Is Our Example (1 Peter 2:21-25)

13 Principles: Surviving in a Hostile World (1 Peter 3:8-17)

1. (v. 8) "Be of one mind" (1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:5)
2. (v. 8) SHOW sympathy, compassion one to another.
3. (v. 8) SHOW brotherly love toward each other.
4. (v. 8) BE "tenderhearted" or "kindhearted" toward one another.
5. (v. 8) BE courteous ("humble-minded") toward one another. (Philip 2:5-8)
6. (v. 9) Do not return evil for evil, BUT BLESS. (Luke 6:27-29; Rom 12:14, 17)
7. (v. 10) SPEAK NO EVIL or DECEIT.
8. (v. 11) Peter quoting Psalm 34:14 COMMANDS:

① Turn away from evil.	② Do good.
③ Seek peace.	④ Pursue peace.
9. (v. 13) Pursue goodness.
10. (vv. 14, 17) Accept suffering for doing good, accept suffering for doing wrong.

"It is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."
11. (v. 15a) Sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart.
12. (v. 15b) Always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in you.

13. (v. 16) Maintain a good conscience before God and men.

★ Maintaining a good conscience is a serious and endless task. (Acts 24:15)

“To Bring Us to God” (1 Peter 3:18)

- Christ suffered once for the sins of His people. (Hebrews 7:26-27; 9:12, 26, 28; 10:10; ; Gal 1:4; 2:20; 3:13; Titus 2:14; Heb 9:26, 28)
- Christ came to do the will (work) of the Father and to finish it! (John 4:34; 6:39; 19:30) HE DID NOT COME TO MAKE SALVATION POSSIBLE! HE CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS! (Matt 1:21)
- He willingly laid down His life for His own! (John 10:15-18; 1 John 3:16)
- “the just for the unjust” – “the Righteous for the Unrighteous” – (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:6)
- Christ suffered in the place of His people! (Rom 5:7-8; Isaiah 53:4-6)
- “that He might bring us to God” – we were alienated from God because of our sins (Isaiah 59:2; Eph 2:12; 4:17-18; Col 1:21)
 - ★ “to bring” is **prosagw** *prosago* {pros-ag'-o} “to introduce”; “to verify someone’s right to come before the king”.
 - ☆ We had to be brought to God because we could not bring ourselves!
- Through His death the way into God’s presence was secured! (Matt 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45; Heb 6:19-20; 10:19-22)

Victory Proclaimed! (1 Peter 3:19-20)

- Christ suffered as a criminal, between two criminals, and yet was innocent – the just for the unjust. He died when we were yet sinners without any ability to come to God. (Rom 5:6, 8)
- He died in the flesh but was made alive in the spirit. Christ died physically but remained alive in His Spirit or spirit.
- He went (to another place) to preach (*kerusso* - to herald the message of the King) to the spirits now in prison – HE PROCLAIMED HIS VICTORY OVER THEM. See Colossians 2:15.
 - Theologians are divided on who these “spirits” are. Peter normally uses the word “soul” when speaking of human “spirits”.
 - In 2 Peter 2:4, Peter calls a place where demons are imprisoned “TARTARUS” – a place reserved for the worse of the worse according to Greek mythology.
 - In Revelation 9:1-2, John refers to a demons’ prison as “the bottomless pit” or “the pit of the abyss”. Satan will be imprisoned here for 1000 years. (Revelation 20:1-3)
 - John also speaks of four demons imprisoned at the Euphrates River “who are prepared for the hour and day and month and year.” (Revelation 9:14-15)
 - Jude tells us, “The angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day . . .” (vv. 6, 7)

- It is this passage, along with 2 Peter 2:4, and the context of 1 Peter 3:19-20, makes it clear that Christ preached to those spirits who were imprisoned during Noah's time - Genesis 6. These were/are the spirits that commit heinous sins during Noah's times. See Genesis 6:5.
- Demons FEAR going to this place *before* their time! (Luke 8:31)
- Christ went there to proclaim His victory over sin, death, hell, demons, and Satan.
- ✗ CHRIST DID NOT GO TO HELL TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO GIVE THOSE WHO WERE IMPRISONED A SECOND CHANCE!
 - God's people of the OT and the NT are saved in the same way – looking to God's promised Messiah.
 - It is appointed for men to die ONCE and then come judgment. (Heb 9:27)
 - NOW is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)
 - IF you hear His voice, do not harden your heart! (Hebrews 3:7, 15; 4:7)

The Ark: A Picture of Christ (1 Peter 3:20-21)

- God promised that He would wait 120 years before bringing judgment. (Genesis 6:3)
- (v. 20) Peter points to God's longsuffering with the ungodly during Noah's days but that longsuffering would come to an end. (See Genesis 6:5-7)
- Noah preached (*"heralded"*) righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) and built the Ark according to God's Word.
- Noah believed God at His Word. (Hebrews 11:7)
- The Ark was God's only safety from HIS judgment as Christ is His only way to salvation from God's final judgment. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- The Ark was designed completely by God. (1 Peter 1:19-20)
- Only ONE door. (John 10:1-9; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5)
- NO oars, NO sails, NO rudder. (Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 118:8-9; Jeremiah 17:5-8)
- ALL those "in the Ark" lived.
- ALL those "outside the Ark" died!
- ALL those "in Christ" shall live. (1 John 5:11-12; John 4:6; 11:25-26)
- ALL those "outside of Christ" will die.
- The ARK took the judgment of God for those inside as Christ "took" God's wrath for us!
- (v. 20) ONLY EIGHT out of MILLIONS were saved from God's judgment at the Flood. MEDITATE ON THIS!! Consider Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23, 24-29.
- (v. 21) "baptism" HERE is NOT water baptism. The word means "immersion". Noah and his family were "immersed" in the Ark (inside the ark) as believers are "immersed" in Christ. See Romans 6:3-4; 1 Cor 12:13; Galatians 3:27.
- Peter here speaks of the NT concept of believers being "baptized" or "totally immersed" into Christ spiritual baptism.
 - Being IMMERSED into Christ. (Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 10:2; Galatians 3:27)
 - "Baptism" into Christ saves a person, NOT water baptism.

➤ Water baptism is a work of man. Immersion into Christ is the work of God..

What Is Water Baptism?

- Water of baptism DO NOT SAVE US!
- Christ instituted water baptism (better "immersion") of DISCIPLES and disciples alone. NO WHERE in the NT do we see or commanded babies to be baptized.
- Christ instituted "baptism" or literally "immersion". NO WHERE in the NT do we learn of or commanded to "sprinkle"!
- Christ instituted baptism (immersion) because it is a DISCIPLES public testimony of what God accomplished on his behalf. A disciple testifies:
 - ① When Christ died I died. The disciple is lowered in the water as a symbol of DEATH.
 - ② When Christ was buried I was buried. The disciple is "buried" in the water.
 - ③ When Christ arose I arose. The disciple is "raise up" out of the water symbolizing resurrection.

Christ's Reward for His Suffering (1 Peter 3:22)

- He is now at the RIGHT HAND of God. The right hand of a King is a place of power, authority, preeminence, and prestige. (See Philippians 2:9-11)
- (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25) It is HERE that Christ makes intercession for His own.
- (Colossians 3:1) He is SITTING because His work (of our salvation) is FINISHED! (John 19:30; Hebrews 1:3; 10:12; 12:2)
- (v. 22) It is HERE where He executes ALL authority and power over everything. (See Matthew 28:18; John 17:2; Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:14; Acts 10:36; Ephesians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:16-19)
- The GOOD NEWS is that those who are IN CHRIST are "already" in heaven SEATED with Him!! (Ephesians 2:6)

WHAT MUST WE LEARN & DO

- ① Christ came and obtained eternal redemption for us! (Hebrews 9:12)
 - ★ He came to SEEK His own because no one seeks Him. (Luke 9:10; Romans 3:11)
 - ★ He came to FIND His own. (Luke 15:4)
 - ★ He came to SAVE - not try to save BUT TO SAVE. (Luke 9:10; Matt 7:21;)
- ③ Christ suffered unjustly for us and being His disciples we, too, are called to suffer unjustly. (1 Peter 2:21; 3:18)
- ④ Those who are "IN CHRIST" are/will be saved. (Romans 8:1; 1 Cor 15:22; 2 Cor 5:19; Ephesians 1:3; 2:13)