

# **“Christ’s Triumphant Suffering”**

## **1 Peter 3:18-22**

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### **I. Introduction**

- A. Peter is writing to Christians who are suffering.
  - 1. Why were they suffering?
  - 2. Not because of their sin but because of their righteous behavior
  - 3. “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed” (v. 14).
  - 4. “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil” (v. 17).
    - a) These Christians were suffering in the will of God for “well doing.”
    - b) Peter wanted to encourage them, just as the Holy Spirit encourages us.
- B. Peter sets forth the triumphant suffering of Christ as our example to show us that, like Christ, our suffering will lead to triumph.
  - 1. Peter points out five ways Christ was triumphant

### **II. Christ Triumphed in His Crucifixion (1 Peter 3:18)**

\* How did Jesus triumph in His crucifixion?

- A. In its sufficiency
  - 1. For Christ also has once suffered and died (v. 18)
  - 2. First note: Jesus actually died.
  - 3. Jesus died only once (once and for all)
  - 4. His death was successful and effective.
    - a) Contrast Old Testament sacrifices.
  - 5. Jesus on the cross- “It is finished”
- B. It was satisfactory
  - 1. “Jesus died for sins” (v. 18)
    - a) Literally- “concerning sins”
    - b) Jesus dies to pay sin’s penalty.
    - c) His death was a propitiation.
- C. It was substitutionary
  - 1. “The just for the unjust” (v. 18)
  - 2. Jesus was “just” or “righteous.”

- a) “The righteous for the unrighteous; The holy for the unholy; The pure for the impure; The strong for the weak; The innocent for the guilty; The King for the subject; The prince for the pauper; The Shepherd for the sheep.”
- b) A holy God dying in the place of sinful man
- c) “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

D. It was reconciliatory

- 1. That He might bring us to God (v. 18).
  - a) He gives us access to God.
  - b) Illustration- When Jesus died, the veil was torn
  - c) “I am the way” (John 14)
  - d) “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father” (Ephesians 2:18).

### III. Christ Triumphed in His Proclamation (1 Peter 3:19-21)

A. What this passage is not teaching

- 1. It is not teaching that there’s a second chance after death (v. 19)
- 2. It does not teach that baptism saves us (v. 21)

B. Two commonly accepted interpretations

- 1. It describes how Christ, between His death and resurrection, went into Hades and preached (v. 19) or proclaimed the victory of His work on the cross.
  - a) (Luke 16)
  - b) (Ephesians 4:8-11)
- 2. It describes what happened in the days of Noah. It was the Spirit of Christ who preached through Noah to the unbelieving generation before the flood (vv. 20-21).
  - a) Only eight people were saved. The majority is not always right,
  - b) The ark serves as a “type” (v. 21) or a “salvation.”
    - 1) Saved from judgment through Christ

### IV. Christ Triumphed in His Resurrection (1 Peter 3:21b)

\* “Not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (v. 21)

A. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means

- 1. His person
- 2. His pardon

3. His presence
4. His pattern
5. His promise

## **V. Christ Triumphed in His Ascension** (1 Peter 3:22a)

- A. “Who is gone into heaven” (v. 22)
  1. It marked the end of His humiliation on earth
  2. No more suffering
  3. Same for us who are in Christ

## **VI. Christ Triumphed in His Exaltation** (1 Peter 3:22)

- A. “Who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to him” (v. 22).
  1. Jesus is now in the place of honor, power, and preeminence.
  2. “Every knee shall bow” (Philippians 2).
  3. Christ seen after His exaltation (Revelation 1)
    - a) He’s coming back

## **VII. Conclusion**

- A. Jesus is not only our example of suffering triumphantly.
- B. All who are joined to Him by faith will share in His victory and glory.
  1. “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).