

The Epistle of 1 Peter

▶ Purpose of epistle

- ▶ Encourage Christians to remain faithful through sufferings

- ▶ 1 Peter 4:12:

- ▶ “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you”

- ▶ 1 Peter 5:12:

- ▶ “By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.”

1 Peter – Three main subject areas

- ▶ Three main subject areas addressed and re-addressed
 - ▶ How we ought to live because we have been born again and because of the eternal life we anticipate
 - ▶ 2:1-12
 - ▶ 4:7-11
 - ▶ Obligations in various relationships
 - ▶ 2:13-18
 - ▶ 3:1-12
 - ▶ 5:1-9
 - ▶ Attitudes and behavior in suffering in suffering
 - ▶ 2:19-25
 - ▶ 3:13 – 4:6
 - ▶ 5:10-11

Based on Outline in 1 Peter Commentary by Clinton Hamilton

3:18 Follow the example of Christ in suffering

“For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;” (NASB)

- ▶ Who suffered for who?
 - ▶ “the just for the unjust”
- ▶ Why did Christ suffer?
 - ▶ “so that He might bring us to God”
- ▶ To what extent did Christ suffer?
 - ▶ “having been put to death...”
- ▶ Having suffered and died, Christ was _____.
 - ▶ “made alive in the spirit”

3:19-20 What Christ had done previously

“In which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, {20} who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.”

▶ “The contrast in verse 18...is between the two realms, the physical realm in which Christ was killed and the spiritual realm in which he was made alive. There are two things which occurred in this spiritual realm: Christ was quickened and he heralded.”

▶ cf. Ephesians 2:17

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- ▶ Who are the spirits in prison to whom proclamation was made?
 - ▶ the “disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah”
 - ▶ cf. 2 Peter 2:5
 - ▶ They are the disobedient souls in the days of Noah
- ▶ When was proclamation made to the spirits in prison?
 - ▶ “in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark”
 - ▶ “in prison” is the state of their spirits now
- ▶ How were eight person saved?
 - ▶ “through the water”

3:21-22 The antitype that now saves us

“Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
{22} who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”

NKJV: “There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
{22} who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”

- ▶ As Noah and family were delivered (saved) through water, so men are delivered (saved) through or by baptism
- ▶ Baptism is not a ceremonial cleansing of the flesh as in the Old Testament, but a cleansing of the heart
 - ▶ Hebrews 9:13-14
 - ▶ It is an “appeal to God for a good conscience”
 - ▶ Made possible by or “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

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- ▶ Where is Christ now?
 - ▶ “gone into heaven”
- ▶ What is his position of authority?
 - ▶ “at the right hand of God”
 - ▶ “angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to him”

4:1-4 Arm yourselves with the example of Christ

“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, {2} that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

{3} For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

{4} In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”

- ▶ Whose mind should we emulate in suffering?
 - ▶ Christ, 4:1. Read 2:19-24, 3:18
- ▶ Those who suffer in the flesh are those who have _____ from _____.
 - ▶ Those who suffer in the flesh are those who have ceased from sin.
 - ▶ What kind of suffering is encountered by those who have ceased from sin?
 - ▶ Men “think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you”
- ▶ What two ways of living are contrasted in verse 2?
 - ▶ “for the lusts of men” vs. “for the will of God”

4:5-6 Suffer, keeping the judgment in view

“They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

{6} For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”

- ▶ God will judge who?
 - ▶ “the living and the dead”
- ▶ Why had the gospel been preached to those who now are dead?
 - ▶ “that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the Spirit”