

Sermon Notes - January 22, 2017

Review:

- ⇒ A barrier to us understanding 1 Peter is that this world feels too much like our home. We are too comfortable, forgetting that we are exiles in a foreign land!
- ⇒ Last week, we saw three types of suffering: 1) Suffering that comes from living in a fallen world, which can't be avoided, 2) Suffering that is a result of bad decisions, which should be avoided, 3) Suffering that is the result of righteous living, which should be embraced.
- ⇒ When wrong is done to us, our response is to be distinct. We are not to retaliate, speak poorly of, or even merely tolerate. Rather we are to actively bless in return.

Today's Text: 1 Peter 3:18-22

"A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other anywhere in the New Testament, so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means." – Martin Luther

While there is some ambiguity in this text (where Jesus went, when He went there, who He spoke to, and what He said), the point of the text is clear—Jesus has been exalted as the supreme Lord over everything, guaranteeing the salvation and vindication of the faithful.

Clarifying the Ambiguity of Where, When, Who

There are many interpretations that fall into four or five major categories, which include about _____ unique variations.

Where do we start?

- ⇒ First, we need to understand why Peter references Noah. Asia-Minor, where Peter's original audience lived, had some very interesting _____ to Noah.

The two interpretations I think are most compelling:

- ⇒ A Preincarnate Christ **Noah:** This might paraphrase as "...the Holy Spirit, in whom he went and proclaimed to the spirits, who are now in prison." In this view, the spirits are the _____ who ignored Noah's warnings (1 Peter 1:11; 2 Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:17).

1 Peter 3:18-22

Pastor Tyler Pease

Christ's Victory is OUR Victory

- ⇒ Jesus's Triumphant Declaration to the _____: The glorified Christ made a declaration of victory and gave final condemnation to the spiritual world. Here the spirits are _____, possibly those referenced in 2 Peter 2:4-5, Jude 6, and *Genesis 6:1-5.

What Jesus Did Is More Than an Example

Regardless of interpretation, the message is the same:

- ⇒ Jesus's work on the cross was _____: "He suffered once."
- ⇒ The condemnation that began in Noah's day over evil is _____ by Christ. We don't have to fear injustice going unpunished.
- ⇒ Just as God was _____ in Noah's day, providing a means of _____, He has done the same for us. There is no other way to God!
- ⇒ Every angel, authority, and power is now subject to Christ.

Why Is It Better to Suffer for Doing Good?

- ⇒ Suffering for righteousness' sake here and ultimately receiving _____ is far better than avoiding suffering (or suffering for evil) and ultimately receiving _____.
- ⇒ We are better able to identify with Christ and draw closer to him. The gospel doesn't just let us grow _____ our suffering, but _____ it! Any ability to endure suffering must be grounded in the gospel!
- ⇒ It _____—individually and corporately (1 Peter 1:7, Daniel 12:10).
- ⇒ Moreover, the _____ are better able to see Christ through our suffering. Those who suffer in the name of Christ _____ of their own culture to the truth that God is an ally (Colossians 1:24).

Responding to God's Word:

- ⇒ While general suffering isn't specifically what Peter has in mind, we must remember that even this type of suffering isn't outside of God's sovereign control. If He let's us go through something such as sickness, how do we respond? Can God use this for His glory?
- ⇒ It isn't always possible to see why suffering is happening. Think of Joseph's story. Will you trust God even when you can't see the end?
- ⇒ Floyd McClung, former International Director of YWAM, defines passion as whatever a person is willing to suffer for. Would you say that you are passionate for Christ? When you think about what you tend to sacrifice, what you are willing to endure, and what motivates your decisions, are you motivated by Heaven or earth?