

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – A LIVING HOPE – STUDY OF I PETER
Week 6 and 7 – Christ’s Example

I Pet 3.18-4.6

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB95)

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, 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;¹

1 Peter 3:18-4:6 (NIV)

¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. ¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. ² As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴ They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.²

Central Bible Truth: Jesus is our ultimate example for how we should think and act

Purpose: Peter portrays Jesus’ sacrifice as the ultimate and only means of salvation and the ultimate example for us to follow

¹ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update.* LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995

² *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984

1. v. 18 - Christ died for our sins

- once for all
 - Context means once and only once – only once was necessary – contrast with the repetitive nature of sacrifices in the OT
 - Merit and perfection of Jesus' suffering was that for Him to suffer once was enough contrast with OT sacrifices that had to occur repetitively
 - Greek tense – once and cannot be revisited
 - Jesus not exempt from suffering even though he could have declined all suffering if He pleased
- righteous for the unrighteous
 - Reason for Jesus' suffering is our sins
 - Jesus' example – just suffered for the unjust
- “to bring us to God”
 - Technical term that means to “gain audience at court” – because of the work of Christ we now have access to God – Eph 2.18, 3.12, Heb 10.19.
 - Blessed end of suffering was to bring us to God

2. v. 1 - Christ suffered in His body

- Christ's suffering and Death – in His human body
- Peter telling us that Christ suffered in the flesh – and therefore we should put our fleshly desires to death
- We are to control our fleshly desires through our spiritual desires

3. v. 1 - Christ armed Himself with the right attitude

- Attitude of worship
- Attitude of prayer
- Attitude of obedience
- Attitude of Spiritual Warfare

4. v. 2 – Jesus lived His life for the will of God

- Jesus did not sin
- Jesus did not let the desires of the flesh rule His life
- Jesus did NOT conform to this world

5. v. 6 – Jesus preached the gospel

- We are all called to be evangelists
- Jesus loved people enough not to want them to face judgment
- Jesus “evangelized to the “unlovely”, unwanted, unhealthy, unadjusted, and the unwise

V. 18-22

1 Peter 3:18-4:6 (NASB95)

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, 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; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now 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. 21 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. 1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.¹

1 Peter 3:18 (HCSB)

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the spiritual realm. ¹⁹In that state {or in whom, or at that time, or In which} He also went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison ²⁰who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah, while an ark was being prepared; in it, a few – that is, eight people – were saved through water.²

1. v. 18b – Put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the spiritual realm

- literally “Put to death with reference to the flesh and made alive with reference to the spirit (Jesus’ spirit)” NOT the Holy Spirit – should not be capitalized - for contrast between Jesus’ flesh and spirit – see [Matt 26.41](#), [Rom 1.3-4](#)
- Jesus had a **real body** <<[Matt 26.26](#)>> and a **real soul** <<[John 12.27](#)>> and a **real spirit** <<[Luke 23.46](#)>>

2. v. 19 – In that state He Went – Not as in locomotion but special operation as God is said to move <<[Gen 11.5](#), [Hos 5.15](#), [Micah 1.3](#)>>

3. v. 19 – who - to the spirits in prison

- Spirits refers to angels or demons – In the NT never refers to people unless qualified – “Human Spirit” – Peter uses the word soul whenever in reference to our spirit
- Fallen angels – somehow related to period before the flood – Peter does not explain how

4. v. 19 – what - Made a proclamation NASB / HCB – “preached” - NIV

- << [kerysso](#) >> make an announcement in an official capacity – announce publicly as a representative of the ruler – contrast with evangelism << [euaggelizomai](#) >> evangelism
- Was Not a message of salvation or “2nd chance” which is contrary to Gospel – angels cannot be saved – Bible makes it very clear that physical death is the end of our opportunity for salvation
- Declaration of victory over Satan and his demons << [Col 2.15](#), [I Pet 3.22](#) >>

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update*. LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995

² *Holman Christian Standard Bible*: Holman Bible Publishers, 1999

5. v. 20-22 – Baptism

- Baptism is important – key sign of our act of obedience
- Eight persons – souls
- Saves you from a guilty conscience
- Resurrection of Jesus is the only thing that saves our soul

Conclusion:

Christ's examples that we should follow –

- Dying for our sins – we should die to self in the fleshly world to be made alive in the spiritual
- Christ suffered in His body – His suffering should remind us to be Holy and live Holy
- Christ armed Himself with the right attitudes
- Jesus lived for the will of God
- Jesus evangelized the world – spread the good news