



Week 7

Sermon Series: Sojourners & Exiles: 1 Peter

Sermon Title: Finding A Reason To Suffer Pt 2

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Group Week of: October 16, 2022

Sermon Date: October 23, 2022

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Salvation – Romans 5:1-11
Day 2	Angels in Noah’s Day – 2 Peter 2:1-10
Day 3	Angels in Noah’s Day – Genesis 6:1-8
Day 4	Baptism – Acts 2:36-41
Day 5	Baptism – Romans 6:1-14

The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient 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 clear 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.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message God and Peter are speaking to the church in Asia Minor (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) Why would Peter use the example of disobedient angels in a discussion on being willing to suffer for good?
- 3) In what way does baptism “save” the believer?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) There are some scriptures that are particularly confusing or hard to understand. 1 Peter 3:18-22 is one of them. When coming to difficult Scriptures, we need humility to recognize the limits of our understanding, as well as the assurance that what He has revealed is available to us. As it says in Deut 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.” He has given this text to us for our understanding. Discuss with your group how you have typically approached hard to understand texts and how you have tried to approach this text over the past week.

- 2) Throughout the passage, Peter has exhorted believers to endure suffering for good because this follows in the example of Christ and is the means of our salvation. However, what we discover in this text is that after securing salvation, Jesus also proclaimed victory over imprisoned spirits. Why is it important for suffering Christians to know that Jesus proclaimed victory to spirits who had been imprisoned thousands of years prior? How does this help you to go through suffering?

- 3) We discover that baptism was foreshadowed by the flood itself, when eight people were saved *through* the waters of death. In addition to our text, read Romans 6:1-11. Explain baptism below, explain why believers should be baptized, and explain how baptism can provide strength for suffering Christians who are suffering for doing good.

- 4) How would you respond to someone who said you cannot be saved without being baptized, and use this verse to prove their point?

- 5) When we think about the “Resurrection” of Jesus, we sometimes limit our thoughts to just His bodily Resurrection and consider His Ascension a totally separate moment. However, scripture will sometimes speak of the two events as one (Philippians 2:6-11), bringing them together as Peter does in this text. The Resurrection and the Ascension together become a complete act of victory and subjugation of everything to Jesus. How does seeing these two acts together effect a believer going through suffering?

- 6) There is no enemy of God that will not be subjected to His rule and reign. This includes those who persecute us even now. Armed with this truth, how can you bear up under suffering? Apply this truth to an area of suffering in your life and share the effect of faith and hope on your suffering with your life group.