

1 Peter Session 9

Bridges Group

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Table Time

- Do you make your bed every day? Why?
- How do you reward yourself?

Read verses 3:18 - 22

- 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.

Discussion

1. What reason does Peter tell us that Jesus died? Who are the unrighteous that he died for?
2. What role does the Spirit play in the resurrection?
3. Who do you think were the “spirits in prison”?

Options

- NOTE: (1) Who are the "spirits" to whom Christ made a proclamation? (2) When did Christ make this proclamation? (3) What was its content?
- One group sees Christ going down to the realm of the dead and preaching to Noah's world during the interval between his crucifixion and resurrection. His message is interpreted as an offer of salvation to the spirits, as the announcement of condemnation, or as the announcement of good tidings to those already saved.
- The second group views the pre-existent Christ as preaching in the time of Noah to Noah's sinful generation.
- The third group sees Christ as proclaiming to the fallen angels his victory on the cross. This victorious proclamation took place perhaps during the three days in a literal descent into hell, but more likely it occurred during his exaltation.

Discussion

4. What do we gain from having the image of the flood and Noah in this context? (Days are short, Judgment coming soon, struggles for survival. Justice...)
5. For many people, Jesus is that oxygen mask that drops down in emergencies. They know He is there, and where to find him in an emergency. But their sense of Him is not urgent. What does this passage teach us about the death and resurrection of Jesus?

Read Verses 4:1-6

- 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. 2 As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives 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 are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, 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 human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

Think about it

- NOTE: But if one does good and still suffers, there is no disgrace--if one's conscience is clear before God--for that person can have confidence that such suffering was not caused by sin. There must be a providential reason for it--perhaps to prick the conscience of some and bring them to salvation. Or suffering may be a necessary prelude to glorification. B Hybels

4:12-19

- 12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" 19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

The Bottom Line

- 4:17 judgment to begin with the family of God. The persecutions that believers were undergoing were divinely sent judgment intended to purify God's people. the outcome ... for those who do not obey the gospel. If God brings judgment on his own people, how much more serious will the judgment be that he will bring on unbelievers!
- What's the Bottom Line here?

Thoughts to Ponder

- **What do you think of this statement?** “The opposite of good is not evil. It is indifference.”
- “The virtue lies in the struggle, not in the prize.” R. Milnes
- “At night, faith in light is admirable.”