

Lesson Notes: 1 Peter 3:17-22 (NIV based)

READ: 1 Peter 3:17-22, with vv.13-14a for context

v.17

What is the comparison being made in this verse, which side of the comparison is deemed "better", and why?

- - Hint: *AMP* - "For [it is] better to suffer [**unjustly**] for doing right, if that should be God's will, than to suffer [**justly**] for doing wrong."

- - Another hint: see v.2:19-21.

v.18

What reasons are cited in this verse pertaining to aspects of Christ's suffering that exemplify suffering that is of value to God? Identify and describe each reason, and explain why it is of value to God.

vv.19-20a

What is a reasonable interpretation of the wording in verses 19-20a?

- - Scofield p.1298 - "This means that Christ preached by the Holy Spirit through Noah to unsaved people in Old Testament times, their spirits being now in prison. The theory that the Lord Jesus, after His crucifixion, preached to the unsaved dead in Hades and gave them a second chance is not found in Scripture", nor supportable from any Scripture.

- - See cf. vv.4:5-6.

How does this citation about Christ preaching by the Holy Spirit through Noah fit in to the context discussion about God valuing unjust suffering for doing what is right?

- - Hint: "patiently" = Strong's #3115 "longsuffering; longanimity, i.e. (objectively) forbearance or (subjectively) fortitude"; 'longanimity' - *AHD* "Calmness in the face of suffering and adversity; forbearance."

Did Noah suffer unjustly in this regard? Theorize and critique your theories in regard to whether they fit into the assertion here of God valuing unjust suffering for doing what is right.

vv.20b-21

What is the phrase "were saved through water" referring to? Does the correct meaning of the contents of these verses support the contention by some people that water baptism accomplishes spiritual salvation? Why or why not?

Or is water baptism required to complete spiritual salvation? Why or why not?

What is the phrase "the pledge of a good conscience toward God" referring to? Does the correct meaning of the contents of these verses support the contention by some people that a pledge toward God accomplishes spiritual salvation? Why or why not? Or is water baptism along with a pledge toward God required for spiritual salvation or to complete it? Why or why not?

Or is water baptism along with a pledge toward God along with a good conscience of being a morally good person required for spiritual salvation or to complete it? Why or why not?

- - "pledge" = In the Greek, this word carries the meaning of answering an inquiry or examination of a person, in this case their qualifying status or basis to be baptized. (Zodhiates - #1906, p. 617)

How does this pledge "save you by [or "through"] the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (Strong's #1223)? How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ fit into this discussion about being "saved through water" (v.20) and suffering unjustly for doing what is right?

- - Hint: see vv.3:18; 4:1; 1:21.

v.22

Why is this information given here in verse 22 about what happen to Jesus after He resurrected?

MAIN POINT: What would you say is the main point in these verses?

IMPORTANT SUB-POINTS: What are some other important points God is making here in these verses?

APPLICATIONS: What applications can you think of for how we should respond to the concepts in these verses?

PERSONALIZED APPLICATIONS: From these verses, what do you think God wants you to learn, or know, or remember, or put into effect in your life? How are you going to do that?

Works Cited:

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