

Baptism and Jesus 1 Peter 3:18-22
February 21, 2021 **Pastor Adam Hall**

Introduction

Does baptism save you?

Background on the book of 1 Peter

- author:
- where was it written:
- written to whom:
- main theme/s:

Outline of the book of 1 Peter

- 1) (1:1-2) Introduction
- 2) (1:3-2:10) How Great a Salvation
- 3) (2:11-4:11) Exhortations in Light of the Great Salvation
- 4) (4:12-5:11) Church Life
- 5) (5:12-14) Conclusion

1 Peter 3:18-22 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

- what is remarkable about this passage:

- three similar passages:

- 1) Colossians 1:15-20
- 2) Philippians 2:6-11
- 3) 2 Timothy 2:11-13

- this passage gives the _____ and _____

- 3:18 you hear about the death of Jesus
- 3:21 you hear about the resurrection of Jesus

- 3:22 you hear about the ascension of Jesus – Jesus going to the glory of the Father
- 3:22 you hear about the reigning of the Lord Jesus – all authorities are subject to the Lord Jesus

- this passage is an early church _____ Creed!

Sermon Outline

- 1) (3:18) Death of Christ**
- 2) (3:19-20) The Preaching of Christ**
- 3) (3:21-22) The Baptism of Christ**

1) (3:18) Death of Christ

(3:18) For Christ also suffered once for sins,

- a ___ t ___ nm ___ t: Christ Jesus suffered once for sins

- Jesus' suffering is talked about in this book

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 4:1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

- but this suffering just had to happen once because Jesus' work on the Cross was sufficient to deal with the wrath of God that we all deserve to bear or experience, but Jesus took this in our place!

- Hebrews teaches us the same thing! It is finished!

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

the righteous for the unrighteous,

- the righteous refers to the Lord Jesus – meaning that Jesus was without sin

- we are the unrighteous and we have committed much sin in our hearts, attitudes and actions

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

that he might bring us to God,

- this word bring us back has this idea of reconciliation - Jesus and His death has brought peace!
Colossians 1:20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

2) (3:19-20) The Preaching of Christ

¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

- two controversial verses with many different interpretations
- three main questions arise from these two verses i) When did Jesus proclaim?, ii) What message did Jesus proclaim? and iii) Who are the spirits in prison?

- look at the two most popular views

a) Jesus went, between his death and resurrection, to Hades to preach to the spirits who are in prison there.

Luke 23:43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

b) Jesus preached through Noah to those people who were around during the time of Noah
- these people who rejected Jesus' preaching through Noah were metaphorically in prison – the prison of their sin

(3:19) in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,

- here Peter says that Jesus preached to these spirits in prison
- how can Jesus preach through Noah - earlier Peter talked about the Spirit of Christ speaking to the prophets who predicted the work of the Lord Jesus

1 Peter 1:11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

2 Peter 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

(3:20) because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

- these spirits in prison were people who did not obey the Lord
- even though we see the patience of the Lord while Noah builds the ark

- here we see the grace of God 8 people are safely through water

- people are saved through means of the ark, just as now we are saved through the means of Christ!

3) (3:21-22) The Baptism of Christ

(3:21) Baptism, which corresponds to this,

- Baptism: is by _____

now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,

1 Peter 1:3-5 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- Baptism is the appeal to God for a good conscience

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

(3:22) who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,

- now Peter would have observed the ascension -- Acts 1:6-11

with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

- these three words refer to angelic beings

- two of these words are used in Colossians with regards to the power of the Cross of Christ

Colossians 2:15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Application

1) How Great a Salvation!

- but in spite of all these persecutions and sufferings, Peter spoke to them about the greatness and glory of Christ

- when you look at the book of Acts you will come to the conclusion that the main thing is the preaching of Jesus being the Christ

- today if you are a believer are you thankful? What is a reasonable response?

2) Be Warned of the Judgment of God

- we need to be reminded that the Lord is a Holy God, that the Lord Jesus is righteous (just like Peter says here), and that the Lord will punish sin.

- today are you are rejecting Jesus? What is a reasonable response in light of the warning ?

3) Be Baptized

- Baptism is the Biblical way to say to the world _____

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Follow Jesus by following His word and _____ with the Lord Jesus and _____ Him in Baptism!