

A Lively Hope In Troubled Times
Security in Suffering
1 Peter 3.18-22; cf. 19

[Peter in encouraging these suffering saints has told them that they can stand through:]

- **[Their Saviors Precious Blood (1 Pet 1.18-20)]**

*[1 Peter 1:18-20 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,]*

- **[The Living Word Of God (1 Pet 1.24-25)]**

*[1 Peter 1:24-25 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: ²⁵**But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.** And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.]*

- **[Life on the Rock (1 Pet 2.7)]**

[1 Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,]

- **[Strong Marriage (1 Pet 3.1-7)]**

Now Peter reminds them that they can stand on their Suffering Savior.

A. The Suffering Savior (vs 18) [-"For Christ also hath **once suffered for sins**, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"]

[On Calvary's Cross,]

1. **[Jesus Suffered Emotionally (vs 18, Matt 26.37)** - There is no suffering like the suffering of Christ. Jesus suffered with soul, spirit and body. In the Garden the Word of God tells us,]

*[Matthew 26:37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and **began to be sorrowful and very heavy.**]*

2. **Jesus Suffered Mentally (Ps 88.15)**. [The agonies of anticipation - Jesus lived his life under the shadow of the cross.]

*[Psalm 88:15 I am afflicted and ready to die **from my youth up**: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted.]*

[Every thorn that Jesus saw on a rose bush reminded him of that crown of thorns]

[Every ruff piece of lumber in his father's Carpenter shop reminded him of that coming cross.]

[Every nail he ever handled reminded him of those nails that would pierce his feet and him hands.]

[Jesus lived in mental anguish anticipating his coming cross.]

3. **Jesus suffered Physically (John 19.1)**

*[John 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and **scourged him.**]*

[They scourged Jesus.]

[The game of the kings. The Roman feast of Sattinallia. At this feast the soldiers would make sport with an mock king. If they could not find a real prisoner to make sport with they would make a man of straw to buffet around. But this time they had Jesus, king of the Jews.]

- [They put a purple robe on Jesus.]

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1. Jesus Suffered Emotionally
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- [They put a wilted reed in his hand for a scepter]
- [They then mocked Jesus and placed the crown of thorns upon his head.]
- [They would push him around, buffet him, tear the hair from his beard, spit upon him, and batter him with a bamboo club.]
- [They took Jesus to and hung him on the cross.]

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4. Jesus suffered Spiritually (Matt 27.46)

[Jesus took all the sin of the ages upon himself and suffered eternally for all sin.]

[What is spiritual death? It is not the separation of the spirit from the body, **but is the separation of the spirit form God.**]

[Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?]

Jesus Death was:

- **A vicarious death** [- He died for us and we died in Him. He died in our place.]
- **A victorious death** [- Because His death was the death of death.]

[Hebrews 2:14 . . . that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;]

B. The Strange Spirits (vs 19)

[1 Peter 3:19–20 - By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; ²⁰Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.]

[A pastor was teaching a Bible study on Matthew 16, explaining the many interpretations of our Lord's words to Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church (v. 18)." Afterward, a woman said to him, "Pastor, I'll bet if Jesus had known all the trouble those words would cause, He would never have said them!" When Peter wrote this section of his letter, he had no idea that it would be classified as one of the most difficult portions of the N.T. Good and godly interpreters have wrestled with these verses, debated and disagreed, and have not always left behind a great deal of spiritual help. Martin Luther said, "This is a strange text and certainly a more obscure passage than any other passage in the N.T. I still do not know for sure what the Apostle means." Paige Patterson said, "Dogmatism is not in order here. Nineteen centuries of exegesis have left scholars and Bible students thoroughly divided over the text. All that is in order is to share a perspective." A.T. Robertson said, "The following verses have caused more controversy than anything in this Epistle.¹"]

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Two Points of View

2 Pet 2.4

- o **Bound Spirits (2 Pet 2.4)** [- tartaroo tar-tar-o'-o (gk) - Fallen Angels held in chains awaiting Judgment.]

[2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;]

Eph 4.8

[This view holds that Christ went to preach unto fallen Angels bound in an unknown pit. That these angels exist is certain. That this verse points to them is uncertain.]

[Preached (1 Pet 3.19) - kerusso kay-roos'-so (gk) - To proclaim as a general proclaims a victory. Not an evangelical message of salvation. Hence, Christ was proclaiming His victory in spite of His death.]

¹[Dr. Johnny Hunt, "Spirits in Prison," [www.http://PastorLife.com](http://PastorLife.com) <<http://www.http://PastorLife.com>>, 1 Pet 3.18-22]

○ **Bonded Saints (Eph 4.8-10; Luke 16.19-31; Deut 29.29) [- Hades]**

*[Ephes. 4:8-10 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, **he led captivity captive**, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)]*

Deut 29.29

[This view holds that Hades held two compartments. Based on rabbinical teachings and Luke 16.19-31, one side called Torments, the other called Paradise. It has been suggest that Jesus went to paradise in Hades and led the saints in this compartment out and into the presence of the Lord.]

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[2 Cor. 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.]

[The picture of Hades in the story Jesus told in Luke 16 would make it conceivable that Jesus could have actually accomplished both views. Preaching to the spirits bound in Tarterus and releasing the saints from Paradise into His glorious presence.]

*[Deut. 29:29 **The secret things belong unto the LORD our God**: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.]*

2. A Contextual Consideration - Hope for the hurting.

[Peter is writing to Christians who are going through the worst possible suffering and he is trying to give them hope.]

[What greater hope could there be than to know that Christ is Lord not only over this but over every eternal realm as well.]

[There is no ruthless tyrant that will not face the victorious victor of our souls, King Jesus.]

[Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.]

[There is no tried saint that is beyond the gracious and compassionate reach of our suffering and sanctifying Savior.]

C. The Symbols of Salvation (vs 20-21) - Two illustration,

1. **Noah's Ark (vs 20)** [- "*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of **Noah, while the ark was a preparing,** wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*"]

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- [The pitch or tar Noah put on the ark is a Hebrew word that means tar, but also means atonement. **The pitch represents our atonement.**]
- [The Water represents **judgment.**]

[Not one drop of water could come through that tar. Not one drop of judgment can come through our atonement.]

[". . . saved by water."] - It is the judgment of God that will either saves us or condemn us. If you are in Jesus, like Noah was in the ark, then Jesus bears us up in God's judgment. If you are not in Jesus then God's judgment condemns you.]

2. **Baptism (vs 21; Rom 6.1-4)** [- "*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:*"]

[Peter is not talking about baptismal regeneration. Peter is talking about the spiritual baptism whereby we are placed into the Body of Christ, which is my ark of deliverance.]

["The like figure . . ."] - Water baptism is a picture of the spiritual baptism.]

[Romans 6:1-4 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.]*

[Water Baptism is a picture of what has happened to us in Spiritual Baptism. It is a picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ.]

[If you were to ask to see a picture of my wife. What would you think if I were to show you a picture of a car or a dog? That would be silly. If we are going to show a picture we need to show an accurate picture.]

D. The Saints Security (vs 22) [- *"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."*]

1. His Position [- *"... on the right hand of God ..."*]

2. His Power [- *"... being made subject unto him."*]

3. His Promise (Rom 8.35-39) [- *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."]*

Rom 8.35

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C. The Symbols of Salvation

1. Noah's Ark
2. Baptism

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Feb 14, 2021
Sugar Creek Baptist, May 8, 2005, Evening

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