



## “Christ’s Complete Victory”

1 Peter 3:18-22

Hook: Poverty, suffering, graft, corruption, loneliness, emptiness, hopelessness, doubt, discouragement, guilt, shame, suffering for doing what you thought to be right before God.....etc....etc... What’s the use?????

-If the Christ follower focused on these and many more just like them, there is no doubt that one would be on the verge of a total breakdown, physically and emotionally.

-Peter has written in 1 Peter, how we are to stand against these and many more just like these. Thank you Jason Combs for preaching last week and taking the text and handling it so well!

-Turn to 1 Peter 3:15—Just highlight what we must do and think! “Set a part Christ as Lord of our life.” Not self, not someone or something else!!

-Why you ask? Because Christ has Completed the way to victory for each and everyone of us and that is through His finished work on the cross, which is empty and the tomb which is vacant! Sin no longer has to strangle us, suffering and pain for doing what is right does not have to make us bitter or angry. We move from “Victory to Victory.” From the moment we received Christ to the moment we enter glory-----we are victorious...

-In our text today Peter illustrates the principles given in last weeks text that Jason took you through in Vs. 13-17. Once again Christ is our perfect example!

### **-Pray-**

1 Peter 3:18-22 presents **three different** ministries to understand how we can live well in the world we live in for His glory!

### **1. The Ministry of Christ (18-22)**

**-Vs. 18—The death of Christ.** Vs. 17 Peter wrote about suffering for well doing rather than for evil doing, then he gave the example of Christ.

-Christ is our example: Note He died as a Substitute---He died only once (as compared to all the animals that were sacrificed under the OT law).  
--He suffered, for well-doing---Friends, Christ did not die because of His sins, but because of ours!!!

-Why did He do this? That He might bring us to God.....Literally speaking, that he might provide an opportunity for us to gain an audience at court before God! We can now come boldly before His throne of Grace. Because of his ministry!  
-Made alive in the spirit (vs. 18)—On the cross, our Lord suffered and died. His body was put to death, and His spirit died when He was made sin! But His spirit was made alive when He yielded to the Father. As our spirit, when we die in Christ we are instantly made alive in Heaven!

**-Vs. 19-20, His proclamation (Controversial, will quote John M.)**

-“Our Lord upon His death and resurrection, His living spirit went to the demon spirits bound in the abyss and proclaimed that, in spite of His death, He had triumphed over them. Those fallen angels (demons) who were permanently bound because of heinous wickedness. There are demons that are not so bound that we are Harassed by. In the end, they will all be sent to the Lake of Fire for their eternal punishment.”

-These spirits were not all knowing, so Christ proclaimed to them this great truth!

-Those others evil, wicked spirits, know Christ gained the victory for us through His death, burial and resurrection and tempt us to give into all sorts of sin and disobedience.... We must resist them and making sure “Our life is counting for His glory.....now!”

-The main point of Peters statement was to emphasize that Christ had given the complete victory over all angels and authorities and powers! As Christians, we do not fight for victory, but from victory—the mighty victory that our Lord Jesus Christ won for us in His death, resurrection and ascension!

**-Vs. 21, The Resurrection of Christ**

-It was because of His resurrection that Christians have the “Living hope” (1 Peter 1:3-4 read)!!!

-We must never minimize the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

-It declares that He is God

-It declares that the work of salvation is completed and accepted by God

-It declares that death has been conquered

-“Peter further explains that the abyss is inhabited by bound demons who have been there since the time of Noah, and who were sent there because they overstepped their bounds of God’s tolerance with their wickedness. They were running riot through the earth filling the world with their wicked, vile, anti-God activity. Even though for 120 years of Noah’s preaching on “R” only the 8 of Noah’s family were saved. Water was the judgment of the earth!

## **2. The Ministry of Noah**

-Noah is presented as an example of one who committed himself to a course of action for the sake of a clear conscience before God, though it meant harsh ridicule. Noah did not fear man but God and proclaimed the message of “R”

-These 8 people were rescued in spite of the water, not because of the water. Here water was the agent of God’s judgment. The flood is a picture of death, burial and resurrection.

-These 8 were raised up out of the water in victory, being brought safely to land on Mt. Ararat! (Vs. 21)

-“In the NT, an antitype is an earthly expression of a spiritual reality. It indicates a symbol, picture, or pattern of some spiritual truth. Peter is teaching that the fact that 8 people were in an ark and went through the whole judgment, and yet were unharmed, is analogous to the Christians experience in salvation by being in Christ the ark of one’s salvation. Peter is not referring to water baptism here, saving us but a figurative immersion into union with Christ as an ark of safety from the judgment of God. The resurrection of Christ demonstrates God’s acceptance of Christ’s substitutionary death for the sins of those who believe. The believer who is in Christ is in the ark of safety that will sail over the waters of judgment into eternal glory.”

-The answer—was the idea for a pledge, agreeing to certain conditions of a Covenant (New Covenant) with God. What saves a person plagued by sin and a guilty conscience is not some external rite, but the agreement with God to get in the ark of safety, the Lord Jesus Christ, by faith in His death, burial and Resurrection!

**3. The Ministry of Christians today** (Encouragement for daily living, making our life count)

1. Christians must expect opposition
2. Christians must serve God by faith and not trust in results. Vance Havner once said, “it’s not the need of the people that motivates us, but the command of Jesus!”
3. We as Christ followers can be encouraged because we are identified with Christ’s victory.
4. Jesus Christ is the only Savior, and the lost world needs to hear His gospel!