1 Peter 3:18-22

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World
"…a primer for winning the war that really matters"
The Victory in Christ's Suffering (Part 1)

Opening Questions for Discussion

With those around you, facilitate a discussion and develop responses to the following questions:

1. Why did the apostle Peter write his first epistle?

2. What's the thrust 1 Peter 3:18-22? What's the overall message?

3. How might God use our Christlike response to suffering?

4. What is the meaning of the phrase "once for all"? In what way did that phrase express a new idea to Jewish people?

5. What was Christ's purpose in gathering up our sins on the cross and enduring the darkness of death?

6. In verse 19, it states that "He went to preach". Where did Christ go and to whom did He speak in 1 Peter 3:19? Why was Jesus' audience where they were?

Christ's Suffering and Ours (3:18-22)

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.[NASB]

I. Our Model of Enduring Suffering: _____

- The theme of 1 Peter is living in the midst of suffering. Throughout the epistle, Peter points to Christ as our model of enduring suffering and emphasizes the _____ (1 Pet. 2:20-21; 4:1; 4:12-13; 5:1)

- Peter wrote to people in the midst of difficult circumstances. Throughout his first letter Peter shows he was aware there were people who desired to _____. (1 Pet. 1:6-7; 2:12; 3:9; 3:13; 4:14; 4:16; 4:19; 5:10)

II. Our Model of Victory _____ (3:18-22)

Christ is also our model of how to triumph through suffering. Suffering is to be a time of victory and triumph for us. That's what we see in the life of Christ.

The key thought is in verses 18 and 22: though Christ unjustly suffered at the hands of demons and men, He triumphed _____. Like Him, we too will _____.

In our study, we will examine four areas in which Christ triumphed:

1. It was a triumphant _____ (18a)
2. A triumphant _____ (18b-20)
3. A triumphant _____ (20b-21)
4. A triumphant _____ (22)

III. The Victory of Bearing the Sins of Humanity (v.18a)

"Christ <u>also died</u> for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God,"

Now, as we look at this great statement, we will separate out several features of the sin bearing of Christ:

1. Christ's suffering was _____

- Christ endured suffering to the utmost point: He "_____."
- In contrast, the writer of Hebrews said his readers had not "resisted to the point of shedding blood" (Heb. 12:4) – they had not suffered in an ultimate sense by _____

2. Christ's suffering was for the _____

"Christ also died <u>for sins</u>"

- When we as believers suffer persecution, criticism, or even death, we are sinners suffering because of the sins of others – whether hatred, anger, envy, or murder.

- Christ also suffered for sins, but as the _____ who bore the sins of the world. (1 Pet. 2:22; Rom. 8:3)

3. Christ's Suffering was _____
"Christ also died for sins once for all,"

- The phrase "once for all" (v.18) translates the Greek word hapax, which means, "_____".
- Christ's _____was uniquely _____ for all time. (Heb. 7:26-27; Heb. 9:24-28)
- Unlike any other sacrifice, the atoning death of Christ need never be repeated. "_____!" (John 19:30).

4. Christ's Suffering was _____
"Christ also died for sins once for all"

- 2 Corinthians 5:14--*"The love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for ____, therefore all died; and He died for _____, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."*
- Christ came to provide _____ who would come to Him. (John 3:16; 6:37-40)

5. Christ's Suffering was _____ *(means "in place of or a substitute)*
".. the just for the unjust,"

- Christ suffered as "the just for the unjust" (1 Pet. 3:18).
- Christ suffered the _____ (1 Pet. 2:24)
- Christ died the _____ (2 Cor. 5:21)

And what do we learn from Him? That unjust suffering at its most extreme point can be _____. Even though an ultimately worthy one was dying for unworthy sinners, even though He didn't deserve to die, and we did, He _____.

6. Christ's Suffering was _____
".. in order that He might bring us to God,"

- Christ's purpose in gathering up our sins on the cross and enduring the darkness of death was to _____. (Matt. 27:511 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 4:16)

- Hebrews 6:20 says that Jesus entered the heavenly Holy of Holies "as a _____ for us, having become a high priest forever." He entered to bring the elect into communion with God.

- The Greek verb translated "He might bring" (prosago; 1 Pet. 3:18) states the purpose of Jesus' actions. To move towards providing _____ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

- He came to lead us into the _____.

- And what do we learn from Him? His suffering was _____in the fact that He suffered as a sin bearer, and He accomplished triumphantly the goal of that sin bearing which was to bring believers to God, _____.