

1  1 Peter 3:13 – 22

Men of Grace

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Brian Christie

2  Tentative Outline

- 1:1-2 Greeting and spiritual identity
- 1:3-2:10 Chosen by God for full and final salvation
 - 1:3-12 God's gift of final salvation
 - 1:13-2:3 God's calling to a holy lifestyle
 - 2:4-10 God's choice of a special people
- 2:11-4:19 Honorable behavior in the midst of suffering
 - 2:11-25 Submission to appropriate legal authorities
 - 3:1-12 Submission/respect in marriage and in the church
 - 3:13-22 Doing good in the midst of suffering
 - 4:1-11 Christlike attitude in the world and in the church
 - 4:12-19 Be happy, do right, trust God
- 5:1-9 Serving each other in the church
- 5:10-14 Summary of letters' content and purpose

3  1 Peter 3:13 – 22

MAIN IDEA:

- Encouragement to godly behavior in the midst of unjust suffering (trials)
- 3:13-17
 - God will reward (bless) you when you do what is right in the midst of suffering (trials)
 - Therefore:
 - Do not be afraid or worry (vs 14)
 - Worship Christ as Lord (vs 15)
 - Be ready to explain your hope (vs 15-16)

4  1 Peter 3:13 – 22

3:18-22:

- Christ also suffered unjustly in His earthly life; but He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven – victorious and vindicated
 - Points:
 - Suffering is part of the earthly journey
 - We who suffer now will one day be glorified as He was – victorious and vindicated
 - God's blessing (reward) is eternal life

5  1 Peter 3:13 – 22

Discussion Questions:

1. Share with each other an explanation of your Christian hope.
2. Can you live with the fact that God's "blessing" for you may be delayed until we die and experience eternal life?

6  Thank You

The **GOOD NEWS** is that God has made a way for us to have a personal relationship with Him, to go to heaven when we die, and to have a meaningful and happy life here on earth.

Because this good news is authentic, we must first face reality. The eternal God of the universe is perfectly righteous and always acts in conformity with His character. We humans, on the other hand, fall short of God's standard of perfection. We are morally flawed – some of us worse than others! Our moral imperfection (sin) makes it impossible for God to have a relationship with us or to accept us into His perfect heaven. In fact, the opposite is true: His righteousness and justice demand that He find us guilty of moral imperfection and separate Himself from us eternally, which the Bible calls spiritual death.

To make matters worse, we cannot earn God's acceptance by following or keeping a set of religious rules or laws. We are simply incapable of being perfect. That's the reality of it. No matter how relatively "good" we are, we are just not good enough to satisfy God's righteous standard of perfection.

But there is good news! God is also loving and gracious and has provided a way for us imperfect humans to be accepted by Him without compromising His righteousness and justice. God sent Jesus Christ (the God-man) to accomplish this in His death and resurrection.

The heart of the good news is this: Jesus Christ died for us (in our place). On the cross Jesus voluntarily took our imperfections (sins) upon Himself and, as a result, suffered the consequences of those sins. God found Him guilty instead of us. God the Father then had to mete out to Jesus (God the Son) the just punishment for those sins, which was spiritual death. On the cross Jesus cried out, "My God! My God, why have you forsaken me?" It was at that moment that He bore the full penalty for our sins. As man, He was able to die for us; as God, He was able to bear the eternal consequences for sin, that is, being forsaken by the Father (which is the same as spiritual death).

Jesus' resurrection clearly demonstrated that He was who He claimed to be – the Messiah, God in a human body. The resurrection was also proof that God the Father accepted the death of Jesus as full payment for our sins. God's perfect righteousness and justice were satisfied. God could then, consistent with His character, extend His love and mercy to us. He could now forgive our sins and give us the gift of right-standing before Him, thereby "saving" us from the consequences of our sins, namely guilt and spiritual death. This is grace – God's undeserved blessing to us!

This gift of salvation is available to everyone who "believes." The gift cannot be earned; it can only be received by faith. Genuine faith can be expressed in a prayer to God similar to this:

Dear God:

- I acknowledge that I am not good enough to get into Your perfect heaven.
- I believe that Jesus Christ bore the consequences for my sins
- I believe that You accepted His death as payment in full for my sins.
- I receive your gift of salvation now! Amen.

At the moment you place your faith in Christ, a host of spiritual blessing flow to you, including the following:

- God in fact forgives all your sins (past, present and future).
- God gives you the gift of righteousness (right-standing before Him).
- God finds you "not guilty" for your sins.
- You begin an exciting personal relationship with the eternal God of the universe.
- You are guaranteed a place in heaven.
- You become a new person in Christ with a new life and a fresh start.
- You receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as Christ's representative to lead, guide, help and empower you in your new life.
- You become part of the family of God (the church) where you can grow spiritually and enjoy fellowship, encouragement, and support.
- You now have a purpose for living – to serve Christ by serving others.

(*Based on Romans 1-8 of the New Testament)

1 Peter 3:13 - 22

- 3:13 Now, who will want to harm you
if you are eager to do good?
- 3:14 But even if you suffer
for doing what is right,
God will reward you for it. (lit. "you are blessed")
- So don't be afraid
and don't worry.
- Instead you must worship Christ
as Lord of your life.
- And if you are asked
about your Christian hope,
always be ready to explain it.
- 3:16 But you must do this
in a gentle and respectful way.
Keep your conscience clear.
- Then if people speak evil against you,
they will be ashamed
when they see the good life you live
because you belong to Christ.
- 3:17 Remember it is better to suffer for doing good,
if that's what God wants,
than to suffer for doing wrong.

3:18 CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED

WHEN HE DIED FOR OUR SINS

ONCE FOR ALL TIME.

HE NEVER SINNED,

BUT
HE DIED FOR SINNER'S

THAT HE MIGHT BRING US SAFELY HOME TO GOD.

HE SUFFERED PHYSICAL DEATH,

BUT
HE WAS RAISED TO LIFE IN (BY) THE SPIRIT.

TOPIC:

3:18 FOR
CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED
ONCE FOR SINS,
THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST, (I Tim. 5:3)

TO BRING YOU TO GOD
BY BEING PUT TO DEATH IN THE FLESH

BUT BY BEING MADE ALIVE IN (BY) THE SPIRIT. ||

3:19 SO

HE WENT AND PREACHED
TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON

- THOSE

WHO HAD DISOBEDIED GOD LONG AGO
WHEN GOD WANTED PATERNITY
WHILE NOAH WAS BUILDING HIS ARK.
ONLY EIGHT PEOPLE WERE SAVED FROM DROWNING
IN THAT TERRIBLE FLOOD.

3:20

3:21 AND
THIS IS A PICTURE OF BAPTISM
WHICH NOW SAVES YOU
BY THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

(BAPTISM IS NOT A REMOVAL OF DIRT
FROM YOUR BODY;

IT IS AN APPEAL TO GOD
FROM A CLEAN CONSCIENCE.)

3:22

NOW
CHRIST HAS GONE TO HEAVEN.
HE IS SEATED IN THE PLACE OF HONOR NEXT TO GOD,
AND
ALL THE ANGELS AND AUTHORITIES AND POWERS
ARE BOWING BEFORE HIM