

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 21

1 Peter 3.21-22 Peter now compares the ark and baptism as the way God saved...saves...His people. In both circumstances, believers are saved through the “waters of judgment and grace.”

Luther: “Now baptism is by far a greater flood than was that of Noah. . . . Baptism drowns all sorts of men throughout the world, from the birth of Christ even till the day of judgment. . . . [Noah’s flood] was a flood of wrath, this is a flood of grace (AE 35:32).”¹

As Noah was brought through the waters of the flood to a *new beginning*...Christians are brought through the waters of baptism to *new life* through the death and resurrection of Jesus!

Romans 6.3-5 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

(v.21b): The saving grace of baptism leads the believer to a pledge of a “good conscience” before God...

A commitment to live one’s life as a forgiven and redeemed child of God.

“...believers at baptism ask God—on the basis of the death and resurrection of Christ—to cleanse their consciences and forgive their sins.”²

(v.22): The authority of Jesus is once again affirmed...

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ brought victory over Jesus’ (and our) enemies!

The reference to the “right hand” echoes *Psalms 110.1*...where King David’s Lord sits at Yahweh’s *right hand*.

All three supernatural beings described here are *hostile* angelic powers...

“*angels*” ... ἄγγελος (*angelos*)... “Messenger”

“*authorities*” ... ἐξουσία (*exousia*)... “Authority to rule”

“*powers*” ... δυνάμεις (*dynamis*)... “Ability to perform an activity”

Ephesians 3.10-11

“The message for Peter’s readers is clear. In their suffering Jesus still reigns and rules. He has not surrendered believers into the power of the evil forces even if they suffer until death. Jesus by his death and resurrection has triumphed over all demonic forces, and hence by implication believers will reign together with him.”³

¹ Quoted in, *The Lutheran Study Bible* (Concordia Publishing).

² T.R. Schreiner. *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003).

³ Ibid.

1 Peter 4.1-5 “Therefore” ... Changed lives leads to changing ways— (attitudes, inner motives, habits, and pursuits)

This will often lead to attraction or repulsion.

The main point of *v.1* is that believers are to “*arm*” themselves.

The Greek word for “arm” is ὀπλιζομαι (*hoplizomai*)... “Prepare oneself”

The word has military connotations.

Verses 1-3 give us four reminders of our new life that will help us “*arm*” ourselves...

- We no longer serve sin as our master (*v.1*).
- We don’t spend our days overwhelmed by desires (*v.2a*).
- We’ve opened the door to the will of God (*v.2b*).
- We’ve closed the door on godless living (*v.3*). Consequently, people may...

(v.4) “Malign you” ...βλασφημέω (*blasphēmeō*): “To blaspheme” (slander against sacred things)

“The Christian did not show up at the trade guild banquet in the temple of the patron deity, did not celebrate a family festival (also often in a pagan temple), did not celebrate national festivals, and did not attend some parties. Such behavior was considered so “unnatural” that the Christians must be against their family, trade, or city, devoid of human feelings and enjoyment, even a ‘hater of humanity.’”⁴

Going Forward...

- Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, God has made you His own. All that Jesus has accomplished for you and for your salvation is given to you through faith. The powers of sin, death, and hell may taunt us, but we have the victory in Christ!

⁴ C.E. Arnold. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Hebrews to Revelation*. (Zondervan, 2002).