

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*  
Class Notes  
Session 22

**1 Peter 3.21-22 (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.”<sup>1</sup>

**(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 *Psalm 110.1*...where King David’s Lord sits at Yahweh’s *right hand*.

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

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

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

“powers”... δύναμις (*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.”<sup>2</sup>

**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 ὄπλιζομαι (*oplizomai*)... “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*).

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

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

- 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* (*blasphēmo*): "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.'"<sup>3</sup>

**1 Peter 4.6-7** The reversals of death and life. It is the Gospel that gives life to the spiritually dead.

A contextual question...Who are the "spiritually dead?" Likely, Peter is describing believers who were spiritually dead *before* conversion.

And...like Jesus...died (martyred?) with the world's hostility and rejection.

But now...Enjoy life in heaven!

"Verse 6 has spirited a great discussion. Are the "dead" those to whom Christ preached after his crucifixion (3:19) the spiritually dead who are now alive, or the Christians of Peter's churches who have already died? The vast majority of commentators today argue that Peter is referring to Christians in Asia Minor who heard the gospel while alive but are now physically dead. Those who hear the gospel and respond, *even if they are killed for their faith*, will be vindicated ultimately before God."<sup>4</sup>

**(v.7):** Christians are to live in continual expectation of Jesus' return...at any time!

### Going Forward...

- "A Christian lives either according to the judgment of men or by the judgment of God. The world thinks it is strange that we no longer join them in sin, and they speak evil of us...It is important that Christians "arm themselves" with the same attitude toward the world, sin, and suffering that Jesus had while on earth. If we face suffering without a spiritual attitude, suffering will embitter us rather than purify us."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> C.E. Arnold. *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Hebrews to Revelation*. (Zondervan, 2002).

<sup>4</sup> C.A. Beetham and N.L. Erickson, Eds. *The NIV Application Commentary on the Bible* (Zondervan Academic, 2004).

<sup>5</sup> W.W. Wiersbe. *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Victor Books, 1992).