

## LIVING IN COMMUNITY IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY (3:8-12)

Six Qualities + Scriptural Support from Psalm 34:12-16a.

## ENCOURAGEMENT IN TRIALS (3:13-22)

Living "good lives" will minimize (will shield us from) others harming us (2:11-12; 3:13). But suffering and trials will come in our lives, but God provides encouragement when we are the target of pagan hostilities. Christ suffered (but was lifted up & exalted by God the Father). Peter's challenge here (3:18-22) is the same as his challenge given at the end of his letter: "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due season" (5:10-11). Peter reminds us that for our Lord, suffering was the pathway to glory.

### 1. Encouragement in the Midst of Suffering (3:13-17).

- A. Do what is \_\_\_\_\_, & so minimize hostility toward you.
- B. You are \_\_\_\_\_ if you suffer for righteousness (3:14, 17). An important cross reference is Matthew 5:10-12.
- C. In your hearts \_\_\_\_\_ Christ as Lord (3:15). Be "always ready" to give a "reasoned defense" (*ὑπολογία*) when asked by your persecutors. Give it in a spirit of "gentleness" and "respect", and always from a "clear conscience" (Phil. 2:15).

### 2. The Greatest \_\_\_\_\_ of Suffering & being exalted in due time/course is Jesus (3:18-22).

- Peter reminds us that for our Lord, suffering was the pathway to glory. It is ours too (cp. 2:18-21; 4:12-13; 5:10-11).
- But the main point of the passage (vss. 18-22; namely, Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, ascension & exaltation) intertwines itself around three difficult verses (vss. 19-21). Two knotty interpretive challenges emerge from these few verses.

#### A. First Challenge: "The spirits in prison" (vss. 19-20a)

- 1) Who are "the spirits in prison"?
- 2) What did Christ "preach" (announce; herald) to them?
- 3) When did Jesus do this?

- B. Second Challenge: "Baptism now saves you" (vss. 20b-21)  
Peter sees a correspondence between Noah's Flood and Baptism.

1) Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_.

The act of baptism does not save us, it just symbolizes/pictures the salvation that has already taken place. It pictures I.D. with Christ in His death to sin and resurrection to newness of life.

2) Baptism is a \_\_\_\_\_.

NLT: "A response to God from a clear conscience", or GNB: "the promise made to God fr. A good conscience." This means that at baptism the Christian makes a pledge (a promise) to God and the church that we will live in a manner worthy of the Gospel.

### **SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE! (4:1-19)**

This chapter is the heart of Peter's encouragement for endurance. We have practical instruction here, based on our Lord's example in undergoing suffering. The aspect of Christ's suffering stressed is suffering unjustly because one has done good. [4:1 connects back to 3:14-18. (3:19-22 is parenthetical)].

1. "The rest of his ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) earthly life" (2; vss. 1-11)

Four attitudes a Christian can cultivate in his lifetime ("the rest of his earthly life") if he desires to make his life all that God wants it to be.

A. A \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward \_\_\_\_\_ (1-3)

B. A \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward the \_\_\_\_\_ (4-6)

C. An \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward Christ (7)

D. A \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward the \_\_\_\_\_ (8-11)

2. Facts about Furnaces (4:12-19)

A. \_\_\_\_\_ suffering (12)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ in suffering (13-14)

C. \_\_\_\_\_ your life (15-18)

D. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to God (19)