

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 5) 30 Mar..... 1 Peter 3:1-12.....Our Relationships
- 6) 06 Apr..... 1 Peter 3:13-22.....Our Defense**
- 7) 13 Apr..... 1 Peter 4:1-11.....Our Faith
- 8) 20 Apr..... 1 Peter 4:12-19.....Our Savior

INTRODUCTION

- Per some commentaries, these verses are some of the most challenging to interpret in all the NT. Who are the “spirits in prison”; How does baptism save? And what does baptism save us from?
- Oh, and we are to be “apologists” who can defend the truth and give an answer to anyone who asks tough questions

Passage	Comments
1Peter 3:13	Who Can Really Harm Us [Spiritually]? • “...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, can separate us from God.....Romans 8:38
3:14	Christians Have a Different Perspective on Life • The godly will have persecution2Tim 3:12 • Since we know we will be gloriously raised & rewarded for our troubles on earth, the fear factor is removed - So why are most afraid of getting more involved?
3:15	Always Be Ready to Give an Answer to Anyone • This takes work → study, prayer, and practice • “Sanctify God in your heart” – take your Christian Walk seriously, not flippantly – make more time for God, less time for TV, computer, hobbies, and even eating • Respond in “meekness and fear” or in gentleness and respect – Our verbal witness should not be a shouting match. Listen more, speak less – People don’t care what we know till they know that we care.
3:16	Keep a Good Conscience – BUT HOW? • A “seared conscience” follows after evil..... 1Tim 4:1,2 • So, a good conscience follows after God
3:17	Is Suffering Caused by God, Satan, Self, or Others? • There is a time to suffer in God's will 2Cor 12:8,9 • There is a time to seek relief from suffering 1Cor 7:2 • If suffering is self-inflicted, STOP IT Jer 5:25 • If Satan or others cause you suffering, know when to endure it, to flee from it, or to take action to stop it
3:18	Christ Died Once for Sins – the Just for the Unjust • Calvinism vs Arminianism again – Did Christ die for some sins (Elect) or for all sins (elect and non-elect)? This passage begs the question, but doesn’t answer it • What we do know is those who are now Heaven-bound were once unsaved, unjust, non-elect, and unrighteous
3:19-20	Christ Preached to the Spirits in Prison • There seems to be dozens of interpretations • Martin Luther said he did not know what Peter meant • Augustine held that Christ was in Noah when he preached to the spirits in prison • Calvin believed Peter spoke generally / metaphorically, that the “prison” was instead a watchtower where godly spirits anxiously watched for God’s salvation • So, if these greats, along with many others, can’t nail down who the “spirits” were, or what the “prison” was, what chance do we have to find the right interpretation? • Always go back to the basics – what is the context of the passage? The context is dealing with living out our faith fervently and honestly in the midst of a wicked

Passage	Comments
	generation while staying focused on the examples of Christ – Who is interested in saving the unsaved • Though Peter uses metaphorical words (e.g., seed, milk, babies, house, prison), as is common in Greek, Hebrew, and in West Virginia, he has been quite specific and literal in conveying various Scriptural truths. So, we can assume this passage has a specific or literal intent as well, and not a metaphorical one. • “He” (Christ) “proclaimed” some kind of news (probably what Peter conveyed in v18) to the “disobedient spirits” of Noah’s day. • These must be the spirits of unsaved men (not angels) since the context addresses Noah’s clan who were saved from the flood; and we know from Gen 6:3 that God said His Spirit would not always dwell with men, and it was men who were wicked (Gen 6:5) and needed to be destroyed – not angels. • The rest we do have to speculate. When did Jesus do speak to the prisoners? Presumably during the 3 days He was in the grave. Why did He do this? Presumably to confirm the state of affairs (v18) – He is Righteous & Just in all He does; and possibly as a ceremonial function prior to removing the saints from “Abraham’s bosom” to be forever with Him (He led captivity captive – Eph 4:8-10) • Recall the Rich Man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31), where Lazarus resided in “Abraham’s bosom” while the Rich Man, though in torment, was visible to him, but they were separated by a “great gulf” • NOTE. Even Satan was not aware of the significance of Christ dying on the cross until it was too late. • Conclusion of the Matter. Since Peter often repeated key messages in different forms (see 1Peter 2:18-15), it looks like he used this passage to reiterate that Christ died to make the unjust just (v18) and to silence the wicked (v2:15) – for the “disobedient spirits in prison” had no reply to what Christ proclaimed to them.
3:21-22	Baptism Saves! – But From What? • Peter does not say water baptism saves us from Hell, but from a bad conscience..... see Romans 6:1-6 • Baptism, an outward washing & rising up, is a powerful analogy of what should be an inward truth – that we are washed from sin and raised anew to serve Christ

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We have a job to do, so refocus on Christ, and let’s move forward

NEXT WEEK: 1Peter 4:1-11. Time here on earth is very short, so spend it wisely – and give more time to serious prayer.

