

BLESSED HOPE

BHBC



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE
LORD IN BAD TIMES



SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

1PETER 3:17-22

WARNING



- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of an eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer **to be holy** in all his conduct no matter what difficulties are being faced.
- **Perspective:** Sometimes, a believer will suffer for righteousness' sake because of they are compelled to obey God rather than man's immoral, unethical, or illegal rules, laws and policies.

- **Lesson:** When a believer will NOT regret being mistreated for righteousness' sake, i.e., for taking a stand for the cause of Christ.
- The apostle Peter in 1Peter 3:17-22 gives **three key facts** for a believer to consider when under mistreatment for doing what is good.



**THE EXHORTATION: It is Better, if it is the Will of God,
to Suffer for Doing Good than for Doing Evil.**

1Peter 3:17



- **PARADOX:** Sometimes it is the will of God for some of us to suffer for doing good.
 - To show the unsaved world that we are **serious** about our faith.
 - To show the unsaved world their **need** of salvation in Christ.
 - To **encourage** “weak” believers to take a bold stand for Christ.
 - To show the unsaved world a **distinction** between that which is good and that which is sinful and evil.



- **PROBLEM:** Those who name the name of Christ, and suffer for wrong doing, bring shame to the name of Christ.
 - They give the unsaved an excuse for **living** in wickedness.
 - They give the unsaved an excuse for **rejecting** Christ.
 - They cause “weak” believers to stumble into sin or to become **discouraged** in worshiping, serving, and living for the Lord.
 - They give the unsaved **ammunition** to ridicule the church and the saints



**THE EXAMPLE: Christ Himself is the Example of
Suffering for Doing Good Rather than for Doing Evil.
1Peter 3:18-20**



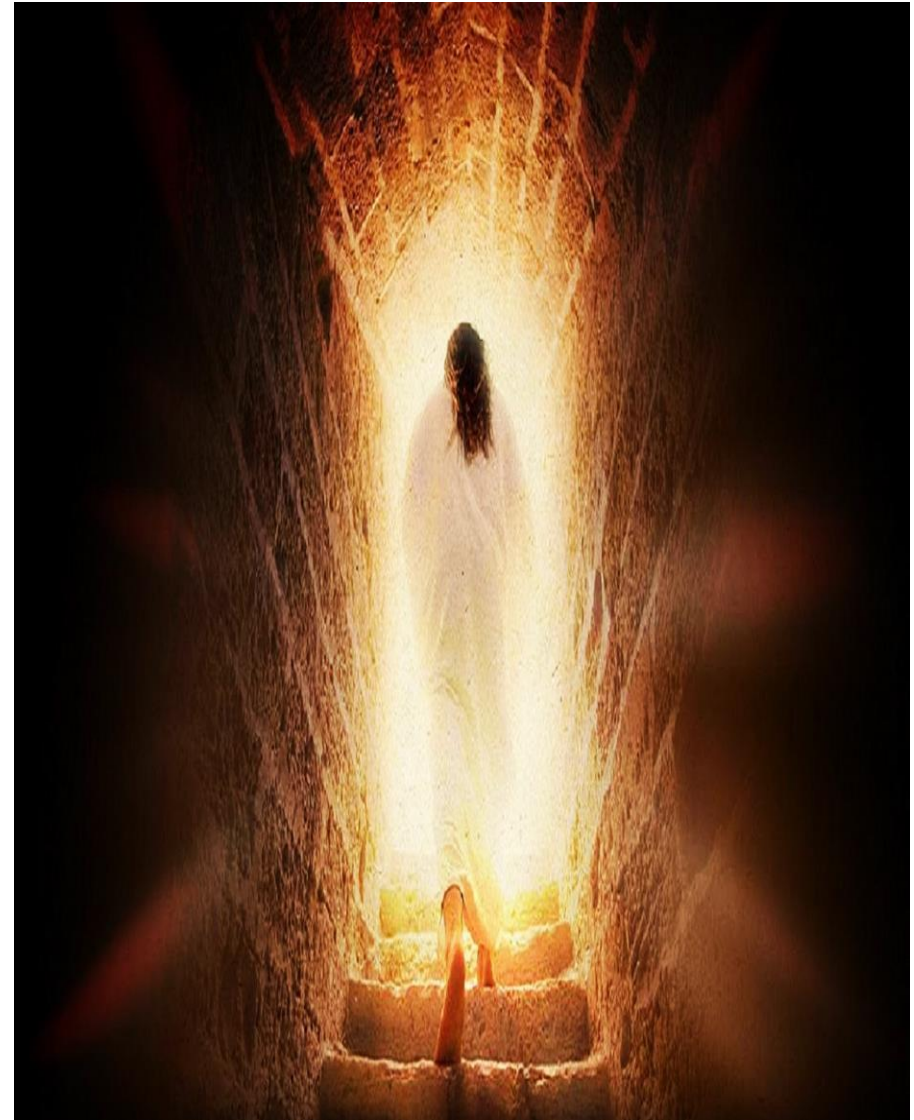
FACT #1: Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust.



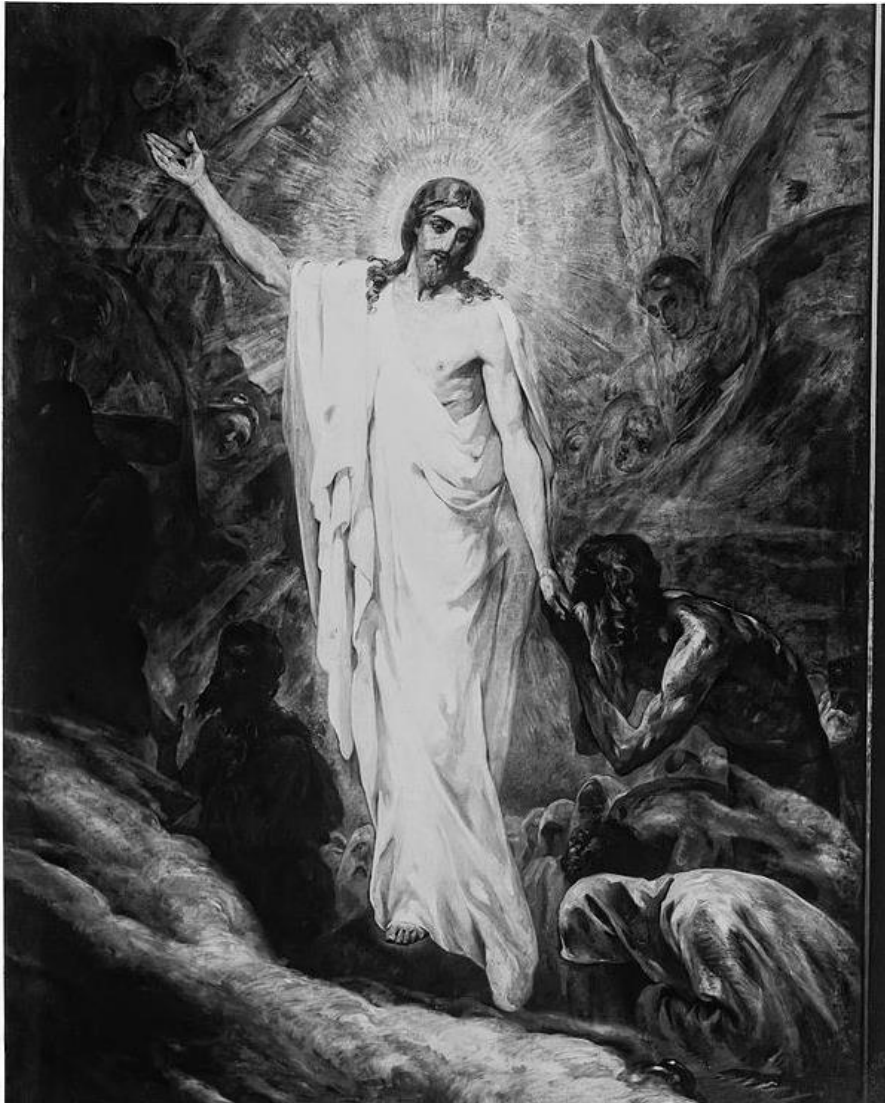
- Christ suffered **wrongfully**— There was no legal, moral, or religious reason to kill Jesus by crucifixion.
- Christ suffered **sacrificially**— He suffered ONCE for sins.
- Christ suffered **redemptively**— The purpose of His death was to bring us to God.
- **POINT:** Like the suffering of Christ, our suffering mistreatment for doing good may be used by God to accomplish something good for others (I.e., such as leading men and women to Christ).

FACT #2: Christ was put to death in the flesh but quickened (I.e., made alive) by the Spirit.

- Christ was put to death in the flesh (e.g., He died a real physical death in a real physical body).
- Christ was made alive by the Spirit (n., some translate this “in the spirit” referring to either Christ’s human spirit or the spiritual realm, but it is best to view this as Christ being made alive by the Holy Spirit, cf., Rom.8:11)
- **Point:** The resurrection of Christ was a vindication that He was a just one unjustly mistreated.

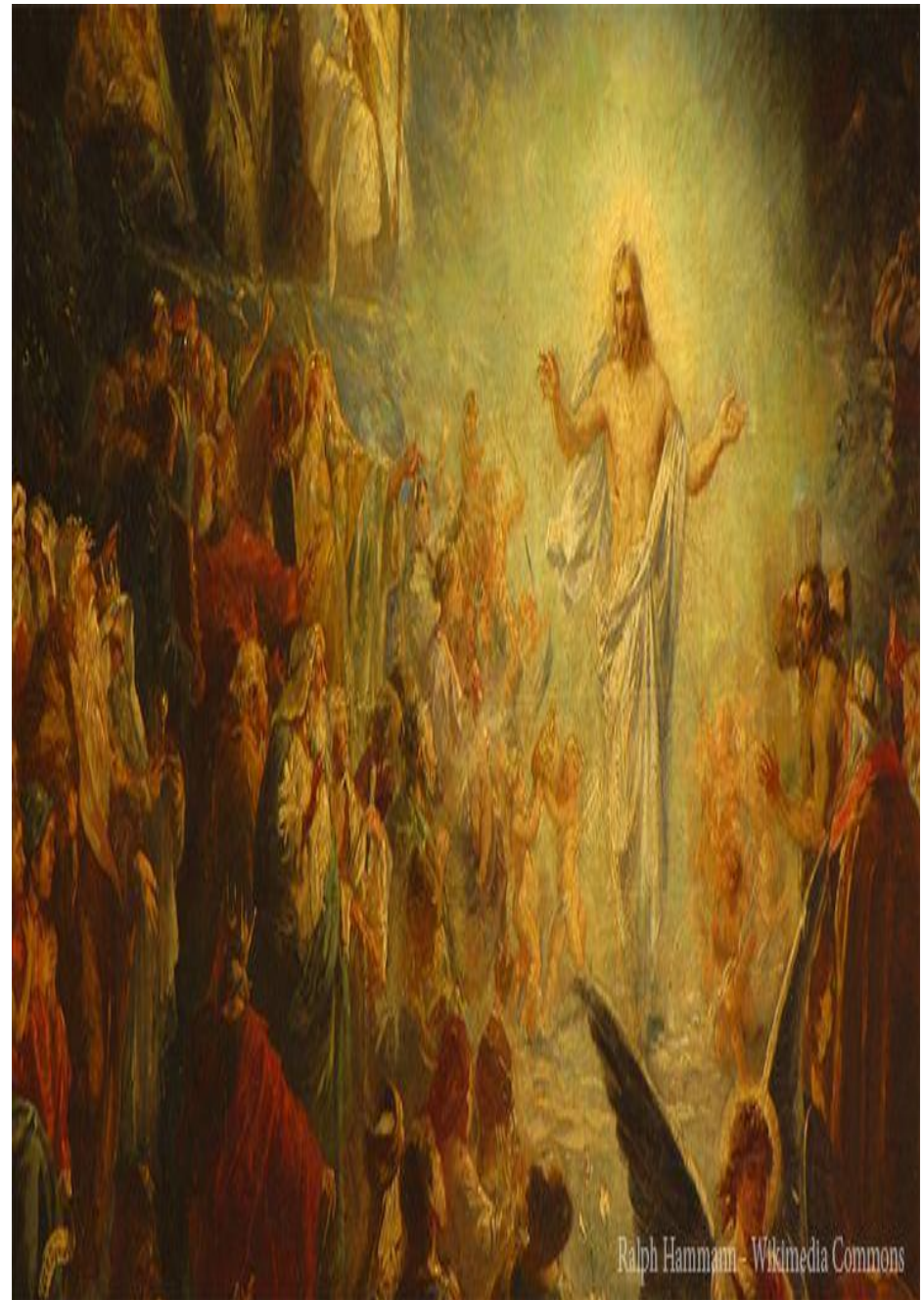


FACT #3: Christ, by the Spirit, went and preached to the spirits in prison



- **View #1:** Some advocate that Christ offered a second chance of salvation to those in hell, awaiting final judgment (however, nowhere does the Bible teach a second chance for salvation after death; cf., Luke 16:26; Heb.9:27).

- **View #2:** Some scholars suggest that the spirits in prison are the unsaved human spirits of Noah's day, who are awaiting final judgment, having heard Noah's message and having seen him building the ark, but refused to repent. Christ message to them would be a message of triumph and vindication of Noah's message and obedience to God (this is a good possible interpretation, but I like view #3 best).





- **View #3:** The spirits in prison are fallen angels who have been imprisoned since Noah's day, awaiting final judgment (cf., Jude 6; 2Pet.2:4). To these spirits Christ proclaimed triumph, after having been put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit (i.e., it vindicated that what He did was righteous and what they did was evil)

- **The Point:** Christ victory over death and His preaching to the spirits in prison is an example to us that our suffering mistreatment will be vindicated by God to the shame of those who falsely accuse us of wrong doing and who chose to do the wrong rather than the good.



**THE EXPERIENCE: Our Baptism is an Antitype which
Testifies that we Chose to Do Good Rather than Evil.**

1Peter 3:21-22



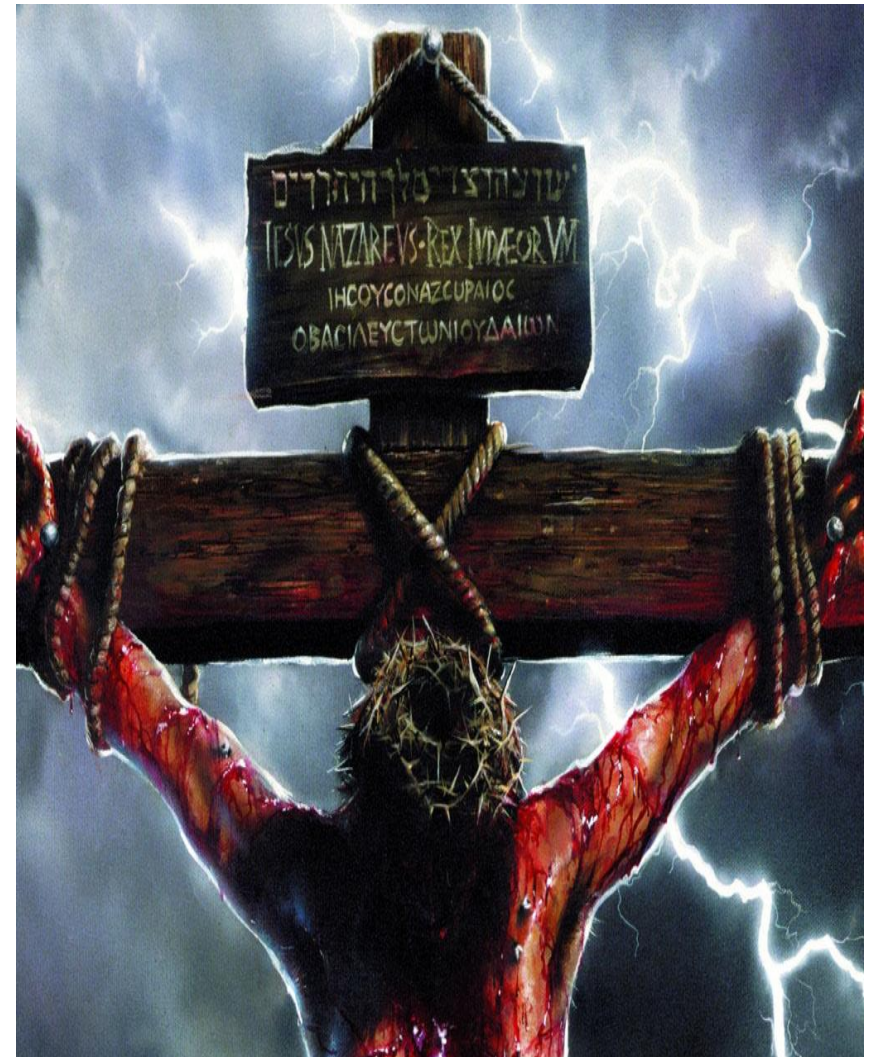
ILLUSTRATION: Noah and his family (consisting of eight persons) being saved from the flood (through water) is a picture (an antitype) of baptism.



- It was neither the ark nor the water that “saved” Noah, but the power of God conveyed in a promise received by faith.
- The Flood came as a judgment upon evil people, but for Noah it brought deliverance, ushering him into a new life.
- Noah’s deliverance from the Flood was a vindication and a testimony to us today that it is better to suffer for doing good rather than evil.
- The baptism of a believer is a public statement of identification with Christ and the people of God and separation from the lost condemned world (e.g., the believer choosing to good rather than evil).

APPLICATION: The act of baptism does not save anyone, but the faith that it represents does save.

- Water is used to wash away the filth from the physical body, however, the waters of baptism does not put away the stains of sin or the filth of the flesh.
- Only the blood of Jesus Christ can remove the stains of sins, because the removal is based upon His redemptive sacrifice (e.g., if water could remove sin, Christ would NOT have needed to die on the cross).





- The answer of a good conscience toward God, which baptism represents, does save (e.g., the outward ordinance of water baptism reflects **externally** that which has taken place **internally** within the believer's heart).
- The answer of a good conscience toward God, which baptism represents, is based upon the resurrection of Christ (e.g., Christ has risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is at the right hand of God with all angels, authorities, and powers subject to Him)

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- A believer in Christ will NOT regret being mistreated for taking a stand for the cause of Christ. When you are mistreated, look to Jesus!



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **died** on the cross for your sin, and that He **arose** again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.