

“THE ADVANTAGE OF LISTENING TO THE GOSPEL” – Pt 1

1 Peter 3:18

Theme: Jesus has assured our hope by providing the only effective way we can be brought to God.



I. The Provision for Deliverance – 3:18

A. The Power of Christ’s Sacrifice

1. Peter has just gone through a discourse on not allowing the intimidations of persecutors to cause defection from the faith.
2. He calls us to prioritize our loyalty to Christ, thus keeping a good testimony in both conscience and behavior.
3. He based these instructions on the truth that no one can harm us – cp. v. 13
4. *“For Christ also died for ...”* - He gives us the reason why we ought not to shrink back from suffering for Christ sake – the fact that He was willing to suffer horrific things for us – He has accomplished our deliverance by His death.
5. Characteristics of His sacrifice that demonstrate power:
 - a) It was atoning – *“died for sins”*
 - b) It was unrepeatable – *“once for all”*
 - c) It was vicarious – *“just for the unjust”*
 - d) It was actual – *“put to death in the flesh”*
 - e) It was accepted – *“made alive in the spirit.”*
 - (1) The distinction between *“flesh”* and *“spirit”* here cause a level of confusion for some.
 - (2) However, both *“flesh”* and *“spirit”* are referenced without a definite article and therefore emphasize the quality – whether “natural” (*“flesh”*) or “glorified” (*“spirit”*)
 - (3) The contrast is between Christ’s death as a real man here on earth and His risen life as the glorified Lord, victorious over death.
 - (4) It was by means of the resurrection that God declared His acceptance of the work of Christ – cp. **Romans 1:4**.
6. These things cumulatively demonstrate the reason we need not fear the persecutions we face – cp. **Romans 8:31-39**.

B. The Purpose for Christ's Sacrifice

1. The stated purpose for the sacrifice of Christ was in order that you might be brought to God – *“... so that He might bring us to God ...”*
2. This concept *“bring us to God”* [προσάγω] conveys the idea ushering someone into the presence of another, or cause us to approach God – the tense [Aorist Subjunctive] refers to one act:
 - a) Either the individual approach that occurs at the point of one's salvation when we are brought near to God through faith; or,
 - b) The ultimate approach to God when we are brought into the presence of God in glory.
3. This necessarily mandates that without the sacrifice of Christ applied to a person, they are estranged from God and there was no possible approach to the Father – cp. ***Ephesians 2:12-13, 17-18.***
4. Through His sacrifice:
 - a) Those who were in a state of ignorance and error were enabled to know the character and will of God – ***Ephesians 4:17-24***
 - b) Those who were hostile to God were enabled to be reconciled to God – cp. ***Colossians 1:21-22***
 - c) Those who were morally dissimilar were enabled to be brought to moral resemblance – ***Ephesians 4:23-24***
 - d) Those who were dead to God were enabled to know quickened fellowship with God – ***Ephesians 2:4-7.***
5. However, there is no other way a person can be brought to God – cp. ***John 14:6***
 - a) By dying, He removed the obstacle of our sin which barred the way to God – cp. ***Matthew 27:50-51***
 - b) Notice the love that prompted Christ to see that we could not find a way to God, so He came to us – in order to bring us to God – cp. ***Hebrews 2:10***
 - c) It is only through Christ Jesus that the confidence can be found to see us through our trials.
6. Have you given your life to the Lord? Have you confessed to the Savior that it was for your sins that He suffered and died? If not, then confess your sins today!

II. The Proof of Deliverance – **3:19-20**

A. The Dedication of Noah – **vv. 19-20a**

1. In
2. .

B. The Deliverance of Noah – **v. 20b**

1. Once

2. .

III. The Prospect of Deliverance – 3:21-22

A. The Illustration of Our Deliverance – v. 21

1. when

2. .

B. The Insurance of Our Deliverance – v. 22

1. The

2.