

1. Christ's triumphant _____ . (v. 18)

This verse gives one of the Bible's shortest, simplest, and richest summaries of the _____ of the cross of Jesus Christ.

The ultimate purpose of Christ's death was to bring _____ to God.

2. Christ's triumphant _____ . (vv. 19-20a)

This proclamation was not an _____ sermon. It was not a second chance. It was an announcement of victory.

He went "in spirit," during the time _____ His death and resurrection.

It seems clear to me that Christ proclaimed His victory to supernatural beings "now in prison" who had sinned in some way during the time of _____.

Not all demonic spirits are in _____.

One thing He definitely did *not* do on this trip to hell was _____.

3. Christ's triumphant _____ . (vv. 20b-21)

Peter then uses the mention of Noah's days to give an _____ of our great salvation.

We know that baptism does _____ save us.

It was the _____ that saved Noah and his family from the flood waters.

When we are saved, we are "baptized" by the _____.

4. Christ's triumphant _____ . (v. 22)

The right hand of God is the preeminent _____ of honor and authority in heaven.

Here's the spiritual principle: triumph _____ through suffering.

Calvary Connection Group

Discussion Questions for the week of Feb. 4, 2024

Getting to Know Me

- Do you prefer coffee, tea, or something else as your beverage of choice? Why?
- What is the junkiest car you've ever owned? When was that?

Into the Bible

- What one thing stood out to you in this week's sermon as something important to understand and apply?

- Who are "the spirits now in prison" (vv. 19-20)? What did Christ preach to them? And when did He do this preaching? (These are questions that have been debated since the 1st Century, and we can't be certain. But we shouldn't let that keep us from seeking to understand God's Word for our edification.) Read and compare Gen. 6:1-4; Job 1:6; 2:1; Matt. 25:41; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14-16; 2 Pet. 2:4-6; Jude 6-7; Rev. 9:1-2, 11; 20:1-3.

- Verse 20 is one of the places in the Bible (along with Acts 2:38 & Rom. 10:9-10) that is most responsible for the enduring misinterpretation of baptism as necessary for salvation. The Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Mormons, Lutheran, Episcopal, Disciples of Christ, United Pentecostal, and Seventh Day Adventist, among others, teach this. What would you say to someone from one of these groups to help dissuade them from this error? (Hint: See John 3:5, 7, 16; Acts 16:30-31; Eph. 2:8-10)

- 1 Peter is all about keeping our faith strong in times of suffering. The believers to whom Peter was writing were undergoing fiery persecutions (4:12-14). How does 3:18-22, which is about Christ's triumph through suffering, encourage us as we see potential for persecution increasing if Christ tarries?

Application

- Does the fact that there are passages in the Bible that so many disagree about make it hard for you to have confidence in your interpretation of the Bible? How can you address these doubts?

- If persecution is coming our way sometime soon, what might we do now to prepare for it? How have Christians in the past prepared for persecution and dealt with it?