

Success In Suffering

- I. Righteous While Suffering
 - A. 1 Peter 3:8-12
 - B. Peter is discussing those who would be suffering.
 - C. Notice the way he encourages handling suffering.
 - D. Do not repay evil for evil. Turn away from evil. Seek peace and pursue it.
- II. Have No Fear
 - A. 1 Peter 3:13-17
 - B. Blessings come from righteousness in suffering.
 - C. Honor Christ and defend him with gentleness and respect.
 - D. Better to suffer for good and not evil.
- III. Difficult Passage
 - A. 1 Peter 3:18-20
 - B. Christ also suffered. His suffering brings us to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.
 - C. Preached to the spirits in prison:
 - 1. Did Jesus preach to souls imprisoned since the flood offering them a second chance? Hebrews 9:27, 2 Peter 2:4-5
 - 2. Did it mean Jesus preaching through Noah to the people before the flood? That depends on how you see the Christ Peter is talking about. It would seem to be after the death, burial, and resurrection. How could they be in prison if the flood had not happened yet?
 - 3. Jesus proclaimed his victory over death to imprisoned spirits. He passed through the realm where the fallen angels are kept and proclaimed his triumph. Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 2:15, 1 Peter 3:22
 - D. The ultimate message is the victory found through Christ's suffering and how baptism corresponds to that and is necessary for salvation. 1 Peter 3:21-22
- IV. Conclusion
 - A. Suffering is a part of our journey.
 - B. We need to handle it correctly.
 - C. Jesus suffered and succeeded.
 - D. In Him we can claim victory.