IPETER: HOLY AND HOPE-FILLED LIVING IN A HOSTILE WORLD

I PETER 3:17-22

For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

HOLY AND HOPE-FILLED LIVING... WITH THE PROPER **PERSPECTIVE ON SUFFERING**

WITNESSING TO A WATCHING, NEEDY WORLD: (I Peter 3:13-17)

- 1. Be zealous for what is good, 13.
- 2. Do not be afraid or troubled, 14.
- 3. Sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart, 15!
- 4. Be ready to make a defense to those who ask you, 15!

"Defense" ⇔ "ἀπολόγια" ("apologia")

WITNESSING TO A WATCHING, NEEDY WORLD: (I Peter 3:13-17)

- 5. Live out your hope, so others can see it, 15.
- 6. Speak with gentleness and reverence, 15.
- 7. Keep a good conscience, 16!
- Be willing to suffer for doing what is right, 13-14, 17.

- The inevitability of suffering, 17.
- The better cause of suffering, 17.
 ✓ NOT for doing wrong!
 - ✓ For doing GOOD!
- The Ultimate Permission for our Suffering, 17

- The Ultimate Example of Suffering: Christ!, 18.
 ✓ The Cause of Christ's Suffering: He died for sins!
 - The Finality of Christ's Suffering: He died once for all!
 - The Injustice of Christ's Suffering: The "Just One" died for "the unjust!"

- The Ultimate Example of Suffering: Christ!, 18.
 ✓ The Purpose of Christ's Suffering: That He might bring us to God!
 - The Fact of Christ's Suffering: He was put to death in the flesh!
 - The Antidote to Christ's Suffering: He was raised in the Spirit.

- The Ultimate Example of Suffering: Christ!, 18.
 ✓ The Additional Accomplishment of Christ's Suffering: He made proclamation to the spirits now in prison!
 - The final Conclusion to Christ's Suffering: He rose and ascended to the right hand of God, above all angels, authorities, and powers.

- The Practical Choice in the light of Suffering, 21-22
 - ✓ Baptism now saves you...

"Saves you" from God's discipline for refusing baptism, if you were trying to get out of suffering persecution.

IN A WATCHING AND NEEDY, BUT HOSTILE WORLD... HOLY AND **HOPE-FILLED LIVING** WILL GIVE US THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON SUFFERING



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