

Theme: As Christians, we may be called by God to suffer for doing good, but He will vindicate His people in the end.

I. Intro – Most Difficult Passage in NT

- A. Garey had hard passage last week
- B. I was so worried I did not even come!!!
- C. This passage is often considered hardest in NT
- D. vv19-21 - every phrase disputed
- E. Disputed in translation and meaning!!
- F. Keep CONTEXT in mind, overall meaning clear

II. Suffering As Aliens & Strangers

- A. Remember link to 2:11-12 - ‘finally’
 - 1. He is not ending letter (preacher joke...)
 - 2. Now applying earlier part of section to suffering
- B. Relationships in the church (v8)
 - 1. Applying submission principles in church
 - 2. Harmonious relationships - way it should be!!!
- C. Relationships in the world
 - 1. Don’t strike back - bless! - v9
 - 2. Look to our reward - v9c-12 (Ps 34:12-14)
 - 3. Note verbal nature of good and evil (vv9-12)
- D. Suffering - even for doing good (vv13-17)

- 1. Note suffering - even for doing good (vv13-17)
- 2. Again note verbal nature (vv13-17)
- 3. Fear God - not people or their fears (vv14-15)
 - a. Note link with Isaiah 8:12-14 (1 Pet 2:8)
 - b. We fear God - not people, circumstances, conspiracies
- 4. Answer others with hope & fear of God (vv14-15)
 - a. Our hope (not paranoia) produces questions!
 - b. We fear God and answer men!

III. Encouragement from Godly Examples

- A. Christ - suffers for our salvation (v18)
 - 1. Christ suffered/died unjustly - sins, righteous
 - 2. He did this to bring us to God!!
 - 3. God vindicated Christ (made alive) & saved us
- B. Christ, Noah, and ‘spirits in prison’ (vv18-20)
 - 1. Show text - note difficulties in translation, meaning
 - 2. Show five major views
 - a. #2 - undercut 1 Pet call to faithfulness; unorthodox (Heb 9:27)
 - b. Spirits lived in Noah’s time - v19-20 - negates #3,4
 - c. Leaves #1, 5 as best possibilities
 - 3. #5 - Christ preached to fallen angels (text)
 - a. Spirits usually means angels or demons

- b. How were people in prison?
 - c. Prison, days of Noah (2 Pet 2:4-5; Jude 6)
 - d. Nephilim - Gen 6:1-4
 - e. People called 'souls' - not spirits
 - f. v22 - angels in submission to him
 - g. Also note common idea - 1 Enoch
 - h. Dead people are called spirits, angels having sex?
 - i. How encourage readers to speak now?
4. #1 - Christ preached through Noah (NASB)
- a. spirits can refer to people (Heb 12:9, 23)
 - b. spirits now in prison/disobeyed formerly - not then
 - c. days of Noah - flood came because of people - not angels
 - d. DISOBEYED ALWAYS DISOBEYING GOSPEL/WORD IN 1 PETER (2:8; 3:1; 3:20; 4:17)
 - e. Noah preached (cognate word) - 2 Pet 2:5
 - f. Christ spoke through spirit (v19, 1 Pe 1:11)
 - g. Link between Noah & readers (vv19-21)
5. Key point - God vindicates His own!!!
- a. True whichever view you take
 - b. Noah's small band delivered while world perished
 - c. Christ vindicated - raised from dead!
 - d. God vindicates His own!

e. God works good out of their suffering!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. How do we respond to suffering/persecution?
 - 1. How do we respond when other ridicule us?
 - 2. How do we respond when others verbally attack us?
 - 3. Do we respond in kind - or bless them?
 - 4. Do we fear God - or people & circumstances?
- B. Do we see God will vindicate His own?
 - 1. Do we see He has promised this (Psalm 34)?
 - 2. Do we see he vindicated Noah - against all odds?
 - 3. Do we see He vindicated Christ by resurrection?
 - 4. Do we see He worked salvation for us through Christ?
 - 5. Do we trust Him to do this for us?
- C. Communion - Remembering Christ's suffering and vindication

Suffering and Vindication

1 Peter 3:8-22
 Psalm 34:11-22
 August 8, 2010
 Communion
 Numbers 6:24-26

"Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. 13 The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, 14 and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. Isaiah 8:12-14

1. Christ preached Gospel through Noah to people in Noah's day
2. Christ preached to people in hell to offer them a second chance to repent
3. Christ preached to people in hell to proclaim his victory and their condemnation
4. Christ preached to OT saints (or people in purgatory) and led them to heaven
5. Christ proclaimed his victory to fallen angels who committed sexual sin in Noah's time and were imprisoned for this

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 2 Peter 2:4-5 (also see Jude 6)

When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days--and also afterward--when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. Genesis 6:1-4

made alive in the spirit 19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 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. 1 Peter 3:19-20 NASB

if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 2 Peter 2:5

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 1 Peter 1:10-11