



Series Title: "Exiles: A Study of the First Letter of Peter"

Date: March 13, 2022

Message Title: "Dead to Sin Because Jesus is Better"

Teaching: Allen Mom

Reference: 1 Peter 3:18-4:67

Here are some key points from the passage:

- Peter has been showing us who we are and how we are to live as exiles in the land. Now, he tells us why.
- Life with Jesus is better than the lives we had before knowing him.
- Jesus *is a just redeemer*.
- Jesus *knows us better*.
- Jesus *gives us his victory*.
- Jesus *gives us an army to fight at our side*.

Message Notes:

Verse 18 is a one-sentence summary of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. *Penal substitutionary atonement* means that Christ paid the full price for our redemption, the full atonement for our sin.

God is loving... and he is just. He cannot be one or the other. They are perfectly combined in his nature. His love deals with the sin he cannot tolerate. One of the most loving things God can do is to perfectly, consistently punish evil. It would be un-loving not to do so, allowing evil to run freely without consequence. We can fully trust in a God who deals justly with sin.

Even Martin Luther struggled with verses 19-20. Did Jesus descend into hell between his death and resurrection to offer a second opportunity for salvation? Did Jesus descend into hell to proclaim victory to the spirits (angelic? human?)? Did Jesus, through Noah and by means of the Holy Spirit, preach to those who existed before the Flood?

The important truth is the Jesus knows us and loves us. As we face difficulty, suffering and persecution, this is our great encouragement. Even though there are nearly *8 billion people*

alive on the planet, Jesus knows and loves us individually. Even though many are smarter or stronger or more influential than each of us, Jesus knows and loves us.

Verses 21 & 22 are contentious... does the act of baptism save us? If so, let's baptize everyone! We do not believe so. Baptism is the *outward sign of an inward change*. Baptism is our declaration that we now share in the victory Jesus has already won over sin and death and hell. Romans 8:17 tells us that we will share in his reward, in his glory. Think of what this meant to Peter's first-century readers, living in exile. It means the same to us as we live in exile—aliens and sojourners in a world that does not want us here.

Finally, Peter tells us that Jesus does not want us to fight alone—he gives an army for us to join and fight alongside. We, the church, are to stand together, side by side, to war against the sin and evil of the enemy of our souls. Are we united in this fight? Do we stand shoulder to shoulder, together in the struggle? Or is church something we do when our schedule allows it on a Sunday morning? The church is not a consumer commodity. It is something far, far, greater—it is the fellowship of faith, the household of believers, the adopted children of our God. We must do this thing together, setting aside the idols of self-reliance and self-determination for the challenge of living in community. We must together declare the truth of the cross, that Christ has paid the price for our sin and that we can be fully redeemed. We must encourage each other to know and love the Christ who knows and loves us. We must share in the victory that is ours through Christ who defeated the enemy of our souls. And we must be the church *together*, not facing the suffering and sin in this world alone. We are to be the army of Jesus in the land of our exile.

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation that seemed hopeless to you?
- What does verse 18 tell us about our hope in Christ?
- How does this hope change the way we view suffering for Christ?
- How does this hope change our everyday behavior? How does it affect the way we live before others?
- How do 4:3-4 speak to our status as exiles? What practical application do you see for your own life?
- What does baptism mean to you? Why does the church universally see this as important?
- How should the realities of judgement and Christ's glory (4:5-6) affect our daily lives?
- What is one thing you can do to live as a follower of Jesus in the face of the pressures of modern culture?

My Notes and Questions