

Cornerstone Church

March 12, 2017

**Sermon Series: Practicing Our Readiness Drills for
Christ's Return - Seeking God's Guidance from 1st and
2nd Peter**

Today's Sermon: The Amazing, Victorious, Awe-Inspiring
Sacrifice of the Son of God 1 Peter 3:18

Today's Passage: 1 Peter 3:18

[18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (ESV)

Introduction:

Main Point: We are motivated to endure unjust suffering (certain to come in America) because our Savior was willing to suffer for us on our behalf. If the purest, most innocent and holy human/God ever to live was willing to gladly endure suffering so can we and there is a victorious ending to our suffering.

Review

[17] For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (ESV)

Christ's suffering illustrated for us:

1. Christ suffered a **death** that paid for all our sins. **For Christ also suffered once for sins**
 - This would never have happened apart from the love of God. **John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (ESV)**

- This would never be required apart from the justice of God. **Romans 3:25 whom God put forward as a propitiation** (propitious = favorably disposed towards someone) **by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. (ESV)**
 - Although Christ's death was required to meet God's justice, it was not necessary that we be saved at all. God did not save the angels when they sinned. **2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; (ESV)**
 - The reason God chose to save some through the death of Jesus is that it became a consequence of His (God's) decision to love us enough to do so. Wow, this makes us more loved than the angels who rebelled (or even the angels who remained faithful).
 - No other sacrifice would do. Only the blood of a perfect human being (you have to be human to shed blood and die) and an infinitely holy God was sufficient to pay for our sins. **Hebrews 10:4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (ESV) Hebrews 9:24-26 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. [25] Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, [26] for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (ESV)**
- The suffering Christ experienced was a painful death of a crucifixion. But, that was not his only suffering.

2. Christ suffered a painful **separation (abandonment)** in order to bear the wrath of God against our sin.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (ESV)

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (ESV)

Christ had to live a righteous life (30+ years) in order to bring us to God as righteous saints. **the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,**

- Jesus' death was not the only requirement necessary for us to experience heaven and God's presence. He also had to live a righteous life so that we could inherit his righteousness.
 - If all we received from Jesus' death on the cross was forgiveness of sins, we would only achieve moral neutrality like Adam and Eve had. That would not be enough to attain the righteousness of Christ and admission to heaven! **Philippians 3:9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (ESV) and,
Romans 5:19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV) and
1 Corinthians 1:30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (ESV)
 - To be forever grateful for the degree we have been forgiven and how much we have received we need to compare our unrighteousness to His righteousness:

Psalms 14:3 They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. (ESV)

1 Kings 8:46a “If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—

Romans 3:9-10 [9] What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, [10] as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; (ESV)

The victory we can count on is the same outcome of life as Jesus', which is: **being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, (ESV)** After His death on the cross, God raised Jesus from the dead to bring His spirit (and body) back to life to live forever with the Father and with us in Heaven.

Application

- The only people who can be certain to survive the coming persecution and go to heaven are those who remain loyal to Christ when threatened with starvation, torture, harm to family, even death and only those people are genuine believers who today are growing in their faith and walk daily with Jesus and able to hear his voice and follow him anywhere.
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