

The Victory That Will Get Us Through Unfair Suffering and Even Death¹

1 Peter 3:18–22

Christ's pathway through death to life.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, (see Romans 6:10; Hebrews 7:17; 9:12, 18, 26, 28; 10:10) 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,

A victory proclamation

¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. ⁵ The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. **Genesis 6:1–8** 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; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; **2 Peter 2:4–5** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— **Jude 6 (cf. Jude 14ff)** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. **Colossians 2:13–15**

Baptism; the testimony of the victory of life over sin and death.

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Jesus! VICTORIOUS!!!!!!

²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? (from Psalm 110) **Hebrews 1:13** Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **Hebrews 8:1** But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, **Hebrews 10:12** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:2**

¹Message prepared and shared with the congregation of West Salem Baptist Church, and friends at large, by Dr Paul Null, Sunday, June 14, 2020. Citations from Scripture are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.