

First Peter – Then and Now
(Lesson 7– Foundation Stones for Encouragement)

Introduction

- A. Some truths are primary in Christianity and some secondary. The Crucifixion and Resurrection are among the primary. See 1 Peter 1:3; 2:21, 23; 4:1,13
- B. Peter is emphasizing how Jesus Christ is involved in history. There has never been a time when He was not the revelation of God and the provision of God for his people.
- C. Through the New Birth we have been brought into a living relationship with God and involved in His plan. His presence and plan gives meaning to our daily life. 1-13; 2:4,5

I. The Importance of Christ’s Resurrection – 3:18 – “... made alive by the Spirit.”

- A. It was a historical resurrection.
- B. It was a personal resurrection.
- C. It was a representative resurrection.
- D. It was a redemptive resurrection.
- E. It was a vicarious resurrection
- F. It was a covenantal resurrection.
- G. It was a contemporaneous resurrection.
- H. It was a validating resurrection.

Summary # 1: Note John 20:19-31; Romans 10:9,10; 1 Peter 1:3.

Summary #2: We not only died in the Crucifixion we were resurrected in His Resurrection

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life...In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Romans 6:4,11

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. Philippians 3:10

II. The Importance of Christ’s Ministry through Noah – 1 Peter 3:19,20

“ ... through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.,

- A. The striking parallel between the days of Noah and the days when Peter wrote.
(The following is taken from Wayne Grudem, *1 Peter*, (IVP Press, pp 160,161)
 - 1. Noah and his family were a minority surrounded by hostile unbelievers.
 - 2. Noah was righteous in the midst of a wicked world. (Genesis 6:9; Ezekiel 14:14,20)

3. Noah witnessed boldly to those around him. (2 Peter 2:5)
4. Noah realized that judgment was soon to come upon the world.
5. In the unseen “spiritual” realm Christ preached through Noah to unbelievers.
6. At the time of Noah, God was patiently awaiting repentance from unbelievers.
7. Noah was finally saved, with a few others.

III. The Importance of Our Response to God’s Provision. 1 Peter 3:20,21

... In it (the Ark) only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

A. Baptism is our “pledge” to God for a good conscience.

(Better translation is “Appeal to God for a good conscience.” (New American Standard))

1. In the N.T. days baptism was looked upon as closely related to the New Birth.

...When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:37, 38

... having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2:12

2. Baptism is a public confession that matches our verbal confession. (Romans 10:9,10)

B. Baptism is powerful because of the Resurrection.

... “it saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:21 (See 1:3)

Baptism is a public confession of our belief. Coming up out of the water symbolizes the entrance into a new life – new in that we’ve received the power of the Resurrection. In His Resurrection Jesus Christ was through forever with the sin and death that He bore in our place. (See Romans 6)

IV. The Importance of Christ’s Victory.

... Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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