



Equipped For The Inevitable
“The Victory of Christ’s Suffering” (Part 1)

1 Peter 3:18-22

All followers of Jesus should be able to see past the event of how Jesus suffered to the purpose of why Jesus suffered. Many times when we read of the way in which Jesus suffered and died, the method and the means can distract us. We then miss the magnificent victory and majesty of it.

Peter culminates his teaching on the unjust suffering of believers with the example of how Jesus’ suffering achieved the victorious purpose of God. The holy, righteous, sinless Jesus died for the utterly unholy, unrighteous, and sinful human race. That is the core of the gospel message. God the Father predetermined redemption through the suffering of God the Son. In a compelling, complete, and profound way, Jesus perfectly and victoriously achieved that redemption.

Jesus achieved victory through His suffering as payment for sin. (1 Peter 3:18a)

Sin caused the death of Jesus Christ. He **died for sins**. The death of Jesus - specifically all that took place from His arrest in the garden until He said, “*It is finished*” - is known as the suffering of Jesus for the payment of sin. From the betrayal, to the abuse at His arrest, to the so-called trial held by the Jewish religious leaders, to the beating by the Romans, to the carrying of the cross to Golgotha, to the mockery of on-lookers, to being nailed to the cross - everything until He decided it was complete - is all known as the suffering of Jesus. ***(cf. John 10:15-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 10:19-25)***

Jesus proclaimed His victory over sin and death to His enemies. (1 Peter 3:18b-20a)

Critics of the death and resurrection of Christ assert that He did not actually die. They say He merely passed out from the beating and being nailed to the cross, and then he was revived in the coolness of the tomb. But the phrase **having been put to death in the flesh** silences the criticism. Moreover, to hasten the deaths of the two thieves crucified with Jesus, the Roman soldiers broke their legs. Crucifixion victims postponed death as long as possible by pushing up with their legs so they could breath. When the soldiers approached Jesus, they saw that He was already dead. To confirm it, they pierced His side with a spear causing blood and water to flow out, which was a physiological sign that He was in fact dead. ***(cf. Genesis 6:1-13; 2 Peter 2:4-8; Colossians 2:15)***

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