

The Suffering Christ

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

In this passage Peter is examining suffering.

Suffering is something that we do not like and we try to avoid.

I. Christ also suffered

A. Peter wants us to know that when we suffer that our Savior also suffered.

1. That is what endears Him to us.
2. Even when before the crucifixion when they offered Jesus a drug to deaden the pain, He would not drink it.
3. He suffered to the same degree as you and I would have when beaten and nailed to the cross.

B. But why did He suffer?

1. He told Peter that He could call the angels deliver Him.
2. Jesus willingly suffered.
3. But why would someone go through that if they did not have to.
4. But He did it in order to deliver you and me from the power of sin.

C. He suffered

1. He suffered in the garden.
2. He suffered shame and humiliation.
3. He suffered in the scourging.
4. He suffered the crucifixion.
5. He suffered the wrath of God.
 - a. Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, NKJV

II. Once

A. His sufferings were once for all time.

1. Not like the Old Testament priests who offered up the same sacrifices over and over again.
2. Those sacrifices could not effectively take away sin.

3. There is nothing that we can do to add to the efficacy of His sufferings.
- B. God accepted that sacrifice with its sufferings.
1. That is what the resurrection tells us.
 - a. Eph 1:19-21 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. NKJV
 2. The writer of Hebrews tells us that is why He is a better sacrifice and a better priest because what Jesus did satisfied the wrath and justice of a holy and righteous God.
 3. And He did it once and for all time.
 - a. Heb 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. NKJV
 - b. Heb 9:24-26; 24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another --26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. NKJV

III. For sins

- A. Not His own sins, but ours.
1. This is a teaching that has fallen on hard times in our modern day.
 2. But there it is.
- B. Jesus suffered for our sins.
1. Every rotten little lie we ever told.
 2. Every evil thought we ever had.
 3. Every disgusting thing we have ever done.
 4. He suffered for our transgressions.
 5. It was not the Jews or the Romans that nailed Jesus to the cross it was our

sins, our transgressions, what ever you call it.

6. Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
7. You and I have fallen short, we didn't make the mark, we didn't even qualify for the race.
8. So the only way for Jesus to get us in was He had to suffer for those sins.

IV. The just for the unjust

A. There you have it.

1. Jesus is just and we are unjust.
2. He is righteous and we are unrighteous.
3. He is perfect and we are flawed, we are broken.

B. But God devised a method to fix us good as new.

1. Jesus would come, live a perfect life and suffer the judgement that we deserved.
2. He suffered, being just He suffered for sinners.
3. Rom 5:6-11; For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. NKJV

V. That He might bring us to God

A. That is His purpose.

1. To present us to God, perfect.
2. To make us children of God through love.
3. To bring us to fellowship with God.

B. That we might come boldly to the throne of grace.

C. Having been justified by faith in His blood we have peace with God.

D. We have been reconciled through the blood of His cross Col. 1:20.

E. Col 1:21-22 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by

wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight NKJV

There is no other religion in the world that can do these things. And certainly the atheist and agnostics have nothing to offer.

I close with this illustration that I read this week. "Bought by the Blood"; Robert G. Lee

For those of you who have read William Shakspere. In his story of MacBeth, Lady MacBeth is a terribly wicked woman with the blood of many on her hands, literally. In the end of the play Lady MacBeth can no longer live with the guilt of the evil she has caused and commits suicide off stage.

"We have all heard how in 1922 (1893) something took place that bears frequent reiteration: During the World's Fair in Chicago, a Parliament of Religions was held, a great public gathering in which men of reputation representing the great world religions were invited to participate. There they sat in a great circle on the platform; in their various attires; from different countries; all speaking English. Each man had his chance to stand up and, as ably as he could, set forth the peculiar glories of his religion. To represent Christianity they selected Joseph Cook of Boston, a man of great intellect, and equally great loyalty to the Gospel. In the course of a masterly oration he pictured Lady Macbeth anguishing over the ineradicable stains of blood on her guilty hands. When the audience was at the highest pitch of intense interest, he turned and faced these representatives of the various world religions, and asked: "Has your religion anything that can cleanse the stains from the hands of Lady Macbeth, and bring peace to her troubled conscience?" One by one they shook their heads! They had nothing to offer! When they had all admitted their impotence, he turned and announced: "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth from all sin.""