

Stand Firm: Standing Firm on Jesus Christ
Sermon # 14, 1 Peter 3:18-22

Main Point: *Stand firm on Jesus because He is the Champion of heaven.*

Getting to Know You

1. Before you had a relationship with God through Jesus, how would you have answered this question:
How does a person get to heaven?

Getting into the Book

Read 1 Peter 3:18

2. How many times did Jesus die for sins? How does this fact help us counter how we sometimes wrongfully think of salvation? (See also Hebrews 10:10-12)
(Leader's note: for instance, we know we are saved by grace based on the finished work of Jesus, but when we sin as a Christian, we beat ourselves up. Or the world may say that we are saved by being good or a combination of trusting Jesus and being good on our own)
3. How is it possible that Jesus, as an individual, was able to offer His life as a substitute for all the people of the world? See Romans 5:17-19.
(Leader's note: Jesus, in becoming man, perfectly succeeded in obeying all of God's commands, in contrast to our total failure. He succeeded where we failed, and therefore was our representative in His life, death, and resurrection.)
4. According to v. 18 what was the purpose of Jesus' death for our sins? What difference has this made in your life?

Read 1 Peter 3:19-21

5. Pastor Blair gave this possible interpretation of these verses: The Spirit of Jesus preached through Noah to the people of Noah's day, while he was building the ark, but they refused to believe, and as a result are now imprisoned in hell. Evidence for this interpretation comes from 1 Peter 1:11 and 2 Peter 2:5.
 - a. What do we learn about the character of God from verse 20?
6. Verse 21 raises the question, "does baptism save us?" We know from verses like Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are saved by faith and not by works. So, based on the context, what is being conveyed by the comparison of Noah, the ark, the flood waters, and baptism?

Read 1 Peter 3:21c-22

7. What facts about Jesus are listed in these verses? Give a definition of each fact.
(Leader's note: Jesus' resurrection, ascension, and exaltation are described in these verses)

Getting Out There

8. Thinking of all that is taught about Jesus in these verses (His sacrificial death, resurrection, ascension, and exaltation), how does this encourage you to live for Christ in a hostile culture?
9. If you have placed your faith in Christ for salvation, have you taken the important step of being baptized? If not, sign up for the next baptism at church.

Pray

With your Bibles open, and being inspired by these verses, spend time praising God for who Jesus is and all that He has done for you.