

**Jesus:
Mighty To Save**

...a wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means.

- Martin Luther



1 Peter 3:13-17

For Christ also suffered once for sins, 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, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 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. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

For Christ also suffered once for
sins, the righteous for the
unrighteous

1 Peter 2:17

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

John 15:18-19

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

It is almost as if the apostle said, 'You have none of you suffered when compared with him;' or, at least, he was the Arch-Sufferer, - the Prince of sufferers, - the Emperor of the realm of agony, - Lord Paramount in sorrow... You know a little about grief, but you do

not know much. The hem of grief's garment is all you ever touch, but Christ wore it as his daily robe. We do but sip of the cup he drank to its bitterest dregs. We feel just a little of the warmth of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace; but he dwelt in the very midst of the fire.

– Charles Spurgeon



For Christ also suffered **once** for
sins, the **righteous for the**
unrighteous, that he might **bring**
us to God,

Hebrews 9:25-26

Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared **once for all** at the end of the ages **to put away sin** by the sacrifice of himself.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom **for many**.

Romans 5:6

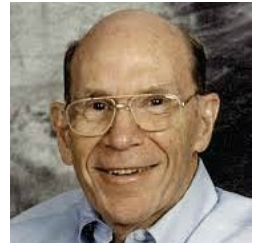
For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died **for the ungodly**.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life **for his friends**.

There would be absolutely no benefit to us if Jesus merely lived and died as a private person. It is only because He lived and died as our representative that His work becomes beneficial to us.

– Jerry Bridges



being put to death in the flesh but
made alive in the spirit

Romans 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

in which he went and proclaimed
to the spirits in prison,



The same Holy Spirit who raised
Jesus also worked in proclaiming
to the spirits in prison.

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.

View #1: Jesus (through the Holy Spirit) preached to those living in Noah's day.

View #2: After Jesus' death, he descended into hell and preached to sinners in torment- (message of salvation or victory?)

View #3: After Jesus' death, he descended into hell and proclaimed his victory to fallen angels who had sinned in Noah's time.

1 Peter 1:10-11

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits (*who are now*) in prison,

1 Peter 4:6

For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead

while the ark was being prepared,
in which a few, that is, eight
persons, were brought safely
through water. Baptism, which
corresponds to this, now saves you

Baptism,

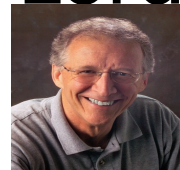
to God for a good conscience

Baptism,

while **the ark** was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were **brought safely through water.**

Baptism is a symbolic expression of the heart's "appeal to God." Baptism is a calling on God. It is a way of saying to God with our whole body, "I trust you to take me into Christ like Noah was taken into the ark, and to make Jesus the substitute for my sins and to bring me through these waters of death and judgment into new and everlasting life through the resurrection of Jesus my Lord."

– John Piper



Baptism,

now covers you

to God for a good conscience
Hebrews 10:22

let us draw near with a true heart in full
assurance of faith, with our hearts **sprinkled**
clean from an evil conscience and our
bodies washed with pure water.

Baptism is only saving if there is an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In other words, baptism saves only because it is anchored to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

– Thomas Schreiner



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

He is "mighty to save." If thou canst not pray, he can help thee to do it; if thou canst not repent, he can give thee repentance; if thou feelest it hard to believe, he can help thee to believe, for he is exalted on high to give repentance, as well as to give remission of sins. O poor sinner, trust in Jesus; cast thyself on him.

– Charles Spurgeon