

1 Peter 3:17-22 – Baptism

REVIEW: Can you remember what you looked at in your last home group meeting? What impact has this made to your life and walk with God?

Read 1 Peter 3:17-22.

1. Read v17. What reasons can you find for why Peter says what he says here? (See 2:13, 15, 19-21; 3:1-2, 9, 13-14).
2. Paul is seeking to encourage the Christians in the face of suffering. Read v19-20. There are certain parallels between Noah's situation and the situation of the 1st Century Christians. What are they and why might they have been an encouragement?
3. What can be said about God's attitude to the disobedient from 1 Pet 3:20? You may also like to look at what Peter says in 2 Pet 3:9 and the surrounding verses. (And if in any doubt, see Ezek 18:23 & 32).
4. Read 3:18. Spend some time exploring the wonderful truth of this verse and what it means for you.
5. Read v21. What might this 'pledge of a clear conscience towards God' (or as the ESV says: 'but as an appeal to God for a good conscience') mean water baptism symbolises?
6. Read 3:21c-22. What encouragement might this have been to the believers in the 1st century and also to us now?

AND FINALLY – APPLY & RESPOND:

- If there was one thing you could highlight that God is challenging you about to pray over / change / seek His help in, what is it?
- Is there one thing you are going to take away with you as an encouragement?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?

Don't forget to leave time to share and pray together.

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