

LIVING AS EXILES

WORDS OF GRACE FOR TROUBLED TIMES



POLARIS CHRIST

1 PETER 3:18-22

1

Introduction

- Polaris - the North Star
- To whom do we look in troubled times and in troubled lives?



2

The Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ (18)

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,

3

The Proclamation of Christ (19-20)

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.

4

The Baptism of Christ (21)

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,

5

The Ascension and Supremacy of Christ (22)

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

6

That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

He went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn't listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved then, eight to be exact—saved from the water by the water.

The waters of baptism do that for you, not by washing away dirt from your skin but by presenting you through Jesus' resurrection before God with a clear conscience.

Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone, from angels to armies. He's standing right alongside God, and what he says goes.

7

Response

- If you are trusting in Jesus, you should identify yourself as in union with him and his church in baptism
- As Christians in troubled times, we need to constantly keep before us our Polaris - Jesus Christ
 - His atoning death
 - His victorious resurrection
 - His supremacy over all earthly and heavenly powers
 - He is often most clearly seen in the darkness
- He has to be sought for in the storms of suffering and holiness with keen eye

8

Polaris

Life's storms are harsh and hard to bear	But there is He who steadies all
They come and go without we know	To give us light and truth and grace
But too they come within our share	To bear it all and heed the call
Of miseries and conflicts show	To carry on and storms embrace
The dark despairs we think and feel	Polaris Christ our Northern Star
The guilt and shame surrounds us still	Shines in our storms from Throne afar
On ship we toss and turn and reel	
To leave us helpless with no will	

9

Prayer of Response

Lord Jesus, we look to you as our Polaris,
our bright and morning star,

*by You we navigate our way
through a dark and stormy world.*

In your sacrificial death, victorious resurrection,
and supreme enthronement over all earthly and spiritual powers

*we find all we need for suffering and holiness
in our fallen and falling world
until you return again.*
