

“14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 ¶ Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. 18 ¶ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 ¶ The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. “1 ¶ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3 For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 ¶ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*: 5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.”

” (1Pe 3:14-4:5 AV)

Introduction: The great apostle returns to his theme, announced in 1:7: “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ....

He has described the immense privileges of the children of God: election, sanctification, regeneration, lively hope, inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that does not fade away, keeping by the power of God; the immense privileges of the church, a living temple made of living stones, each stone being part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; He warns us of being discontented with our lot in life. Now he passes on to applications to individuals.

## I. Sanctify the Lord. vs. 14, 15.

A. Don’t be afraid, for Jesus warned us of this: 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, as Paul told Timothy:

- B. Be ready to give an answer. Know your faith. You are not just stubborn obnoxious people: you answer to another Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.
- C. Answer in meekness and fear.
  - 1. Meekness is obedience to Christ, your master
  - 2. Fear is the fear of God, the righteous judge.
- D. SANCTIFY THE LORD; WE FIRST JUSTIFY HIM
  - 1. Ro 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.
  - 2. Removed from all impurity or charged with evil. He is far above all the evil in the world. The wicked blame God, who cannot be charged with evil.

## II. Cleanse the Conscience

- A. As I said last week, Conscience is the candle of the Lord. It belongs to God and is reserved by God for himself.
- B. See Hebrews 9: 11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 ¶ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament,

they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

C. This doesn't mean the memory of those things is lost. No, that will come when Christ wipes away all tears from our eyes. But the guilt is taken away, so that we can serve God with joy.

### III. Put away Flesh

A. Christ was put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

This is a great mystery, for He said He had power to take His life, and also it is said that God raised him from the dead. The resurrection was an act of the Triune God. But with respect to His flesh, all things were done by the Spirit.

B. But he also preached to the spirits in prison, by the Spirit.

1. They were not in prison when he preached to them; He preached by the Spirit: through Noah, Methusaleh, Enoch, and perhaps others.

2. They are now in prison

C. Eight souls were saved by water, by the flood, which cleansed the earth of its wickedness. This is a figure of our salvation by baptism; not a bath the cleanse the body. But a cleansing of the works of the flesh by the resurrection of Christ.

D. This is described in 4:3, more fully described in Jude 4, following READ.

Conclusion and Application. Make much of Christ's blood. Do not despise the blood of Christ; Do not denigrate the table of the Lord, Precious indeed is the blood of Christ our Saviour.