



Home Worship Guide – 1st Peter 3:17-22

Complement to sermon on November 25th, 2012

MEMORIZE

1st Peter 3:21 (NIV 1984)

“and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”

READ

Read 1st Peter 3:8-22

This section concludes the submission section which started back in 2:13. After giving examples of how Christians are to submit in various relationships, Peter concludes by proclaiming Christ at “God’s right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” What a hope we have as Christians. We are able to submit, knowing that our Lord ultimately sits on the top of the authority organization chart. He is the top authority and all authority flows from Him.

This is how Peter can so boldly exhort us not to fear as he does in verse 14. He follows right up in verse 15 telling us to set apart Christ as Lord in our hearts. If we do not do this, we will not be able to submit the way he commands us to in the preceding verses. Specifically in chapter 3, verses 8-14 are only possible to those who have submitted to Christ as Lord and set him apart in their hearts.

This explains why Peter transitions to talk about baptism. Peter realizes that apart from Christ one cannot live like Christ. It is only by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit this can happen. In connecting baptism with the flood, Peter is saying that a life apart from Jesus Christ leads to destruction, the same destruction of those who were not on the ark during the great flood. He continues by telling us that baptism is not simply becoming clean. This is not about getting dunked in water to wash off our filth. It is the beginning of a new life.

This new life is what sets Christians apart at aliens. This “pledge to a good conscience towards God” is about living in this new reality in all of your life. Specifically, this relates back to what Peter tells us in 1st Peter 2:11-12. This is the mark of a Christian life, epitomized by Christ himself, the laying down of one’s life to bring life to others. It is the power of Christ living in us that enables us and compels us to do this, regardless of what consequences or suffering it might bring us.

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. Talk about your baptism. What/who led you to Christ? When was it? Etc.
2. How have you had to rely on the Holy Spirit in your life?
3. How can we rely on Him more? What would that look like? What would that require?

Bottom Line: We need to be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit so that we can be transformed to have the heart and desire to lead others to Jesus Christ.

SING

“Give me Your Eyes” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ4oUGt14BY>)

“Live like That” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfosSggwQS0>)

These songs summarize the point of 1st Peter. Let both of these songs be our prayer and our life anthem!

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

Preschool (up to 5)

- Choose a battery operated toy that your children play with
- Take out the batteries
- Ask your children what this toy is and what it does
- Ask them to show you
- When it does not work properly ask them why it does not work
- Give them the batteries and put them in together. While putting them in, explain that the Holy Spirit empowers us to live as Christians, just as these batteries empower this toy to do what it was meant to do

Children (K-5th)

- Take a battery powered digital clock
- Take out the batteries
- Give the clock to your kids and ask them to tell you what time it is
- When they say they cannot, ask them why not
- Explain that in the same way, if we are not living a Christian life, set apart as aliens, we are ineffective at proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ
- Give them the batteries and put them in together. Explain that just like the clock needs batteries to operate properly, so too, we need the Holy Spirit to be able to live as Christians despite the consequences

Students (6th-12th)

- Pick a sports game to play with your family
- Give one team everything they need but give the other team a substitute that still allows them to play but at a disadvantage
 - Example: Hockey – one team uses brooms, the other gets sticks
 - Example: Soccer – one team is barefoot, the other gets cleats
 - Example: Baseball – one team gets to use a bat, the other a broom handle
- Make sure each team gets the chance to be at the advantage
- Talk about how being fully equipped makes the difference
- Discuss how this relates to being infused by the Holy Spirit and our need to rely on Him as we live a Christian life, preach the Good News and make disciples

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit that we receive when we are baptized in your name. Holy Spirit, empower us to live boldly for Jesus Christ, to live not for ourselves, but to live to bring life to those who do not know you.