



EXILES:

JOYFUL OR CYNICAL?

1 PETER

LOW COUNTRIES

c. 1700









“For it is better to suffer for doing good if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.”

1 Peter 3:17

Which is better?

Which is better?

- to do bad → and be free

Which is better?

- to do bad → and be free

or

- to do good → and be fettered

“For it is better to suffer for doing good if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.”

1 Peter 3:17

1. Jesus **brings us to God** through undeserved suffering.

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“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 ...”

1 Peter 3:18

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

“For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

Matthew 5:43-46

1. Jesus brings us to God through undeserved suffering.

1. Jesus brings us to God through undeserved suffering.
2. Jesus **preaches through his people** in undeserved suffering.

“... 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.”

1 Peter 3:19-20

Who are “the spirits in prison”?

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Option #1 – **unsaved people** who have died

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Option #1 – unsaved people who have died

Option #2 – fallen **angels/demons**

Who are “the spirits in prison”?

Option #1 – unsaved people who have died

Option #2 – fallen angels/demons

Option #3 – unbelieving **contemporaries of Noah**

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1 Peter 3:19-20

“... in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.”

1 Peter 3:20b

“The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

“And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.”

Genesis 6:5-6

“When they heard him, they sneered at him,
each one, calling him demented, a man gone
mad.”

Sybylline Oracles

“For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day.

“But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

“They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

Luke 17:24-27

So if we're trying to decide which is better ...

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So if we're trying to decide which is better ...

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2. Jesus preaches through his people in undeserved suffering.

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3. Jesus provides a **means of escape** through undeserved suffering.

“... 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.”

1 Peter 3:20

Negative – “not as a removal of dirt from
the body” (21a)

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Positive – “but an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (21b)

3. Jesus provides a means of escape through undeserved suffering.

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4. Jesus **triumphs** over all **spiritual forces** behind undeserved suffering.

3. Jesus provides a means of escape through undeserved suffering.

4. Jesus triumphs over all spiritual forces behind undeserved suffering.

“... who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.” (22)

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

“Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

1 Peter 5:8-9

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:6-7

What should we do with this?