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**Triumph of Christ**

**1 Peter 3:17-22**

"Ouch!" is a common expression of pain. Whenever you say that word, you're announcing to the world—or to your world, the people around you—that you are experiencing some sort of suffering. It announces that we are sufferers, because pain is a messenger that demands all of our attention. When you're suffering, you think about little else except the pain you have and how to get rid of it.

## 1. Triumphant \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 18)

If ever there was anyone who suffered unfairly for doing nothing wrong but everything right, it was Jesus Christ. He suffered and He died—and He didn't just die; He died an excruciatingly painful death. "Excruciating" comes from the Latin *excruciat*, meaning "out of the cross."

As much as we suffer, we will never suffer like this.

A. *It is* \_\_\_\_\_

"Once for ALL" – On the cross Jesus said, "It is Finished" – *tetelestai* – paid in full – effective, done, complete

B. *It is* \_\_\_\_\_

He fulfilled the demands of God's holy righteous law – living perfectly and paying in His death.

C. *It is* \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus for us – Holy God dying in the place of sinful man.

D. It is \_\_\_\_\_

We are reconciled in our fellowship with God. Our enmity is settled. We are no longer slaves, but sons! We are no longer subjects, but heirs together with Christ! Why would Jesus die on the cross for us? Here is the reason, to bring us to God.

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

**John 14:6**

*"For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."*

**Ephesians 2:18**

Peter's point is that suffering in the hands of a loving God can bring forth great benefit. And the best example is to look at Jesus' crucifixion. His suffering on the cross had a purpose.

## 2. Triumphant \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19-21)

Jesus died on the cross – a literal death. So while Jesus' physical body was in the tomb for three days, Jesus' own personal spirit was very much alive. And during this time between death and resurrection He had a proclamation to make.

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ – *Where was He?*

There are 3 places in the Bible called Hell.

- 1) Hades (Rev. 20:14) – (JAIL – pre-trial) when unbelievers die, their souls immediately go to this place of torment – the temporary realm of the dead
- 2) Gehenna (Rev. 20:15) – (PRISON – post-trial) – the lake of fire is currently empty – this is the final resting place of eternal punishment.
- 3) Tartarus – This is the word used for "prison" in 1 Peter 3:19.

Where He was not? – \_\_\_\_\_.

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ – *Whom did He speak to?*

I believe He went to proclaim His victory over demons and that the spirits in verse 19 refer to demons. You say, "why do you say demons?" Because these spirits were in what? Prison. There are 2 types of angels, holy and fallen. Of the fallen, there is another pair of groups, loose and bound.

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ – *What did He say?*

I believe He went to proclaim His victory over those demons.

Jesus got the victory when He died on the cross and as soon as He died, He went right down to Tartarus to let them know. He proclaimed the facts. On the cross He wins the victory for man! He declares His victory over the fallen angels and then goes right to heaven and delivers the Old Testament saints and announces His victory there.

What did He NOT say – He did not preach a salvation message and hold an invitation.

### 3. Triumphant \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 21)

Yes, Christ died physically on the cross, yes, He experienced crucifixion, but that led to something great, His resurrection.

A. Provides \_\_\_\_\_ – *Everlasting life*

Hebrews 7:25 says “...He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Christ's suffering led to death, but death led to the resurrection. And resurrection ensures – not only for Jesus, but for all of us, we will live forever – permanence. Jesus triumphed over suffering, over sin, over death on His cross when He rose from the dead. And the resurrection of Jesus Christ means that everything He claimed is true.

B. Provides \_\_\_\_\_

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”*

**Revelation 21:4**

### 4. Triumphant \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 22) -

A. His \_\_\_\_\_

B. His \_\_\_\_\_

*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;”*

**Philippians 2:9-10**

**Conclusion:** As Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 3:17, “For It is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.” Your suffering, when surrendered to God, has purpose, and aligns with His plan.” Everything we’ve seen in Christ’s triumph—His crucifixion, proclamation, resurrection, and exaltation—points to one undeniable truth: suffering is never meaningless when God is at work. What Jesus endured was far worse than anything we face, yet it accomplished the ultimate good—bringing us to God.