

Title: THE GOSPEL IN PETER'S OWN WORDS, 1 PETER 3:18 – 22  
(Chatham, NJ; 02/25/18, AM) [E – Exegesis]

Theme: In this letter of Peter's he gives a summary statement espousing the essence of the Gospel.

Purpose: To explain what he says and to inspire others to accept it.

## Introduction:

1. This is essentially an evangelism passage despite being written to people who are already Christians.
2. Peter is not trying to prove it like an apologist might, but he affirms what their faith rests on.
3. Note that he encouraged them to give an answer for the reason for their faith, and this may be his attempt to remind them what is essential.

## Jesus Died, 18

- A. The righteous for the unrighteous
  1. Since God is a God of justice, his justice had to be satisfied, Romans 3:25-26
  2. Paul affirms that Christ died for the unrighteous, Romans 5:6-8
  3. Christ died for unrighteous sinners to satisfy the justice of God
  4. The sacrifices under the old covenant were precursors to this: blood sacrifice atoned for sin
  5. He was the righteous (without blemish or sin) sacrifice demanded
  6. He is our "atoning sacrifice," 1 John 2:2
- B. To bring us to God
  1. Sin has separated us from God; Isaiah 59:2-4, our sinful condition
  2. Our sin has made us his enemies, Colossians 1:21
  3. Christ's death reconciles us, 22
  4. Jesus said that only through him can this take place, John 14:6
  5. Our problems ultimately can be traced to being separated from the author of life

## Saved, 20 – 21

- A. What Christians mean by salvation
  1. Delivered from judgment and punishment: the world stands under God's condemnation
  2. Redemption is another word we use: to be bought out of slavery a redemption price was paid
  3. We are slaves of sin, John 8:34
- B. By water
  1. God's judgment against evil, Genesis 5:6
  2. Noah and his family are saved through water, 20
  3. In baptism we too are separated from our previous life of sin by water
  4. Peter describes baptism as an "appeal for a clean conscience"
  5. Not a normal bath in which dirt is removed
  6. Hebrews 9:14 (unblemished); 10:4 (not by the blood of bulls and goats), 22 – our consciences are cleansed
- C. By the resurrection, 21
  1. The real power
  2. Without it our faith is meaningless, 1 Corinthians 15:14
  3. But it has happened, verse 20, and there were many witnesses, 3-7
  4. We identify with it in baptism, Romans 6:3-4: we die with him and are resurrected with him

## Because He Is Lord of All

- A. God has exalted him, 22
  - 1. He sits at the right hand of God with all authority, 22, Mt. 28:18
  - 2. Acts 2:37 – God has made him both Lord and Christ
  - 3. Every knee will bow before him, Philippians 2:9-11
  - 4. His enthronement is essential
  - 5. Where Peter started: it provides the basis for our witness, 15
  
- B. Glory was his eternally
  - 1. John 17:5, he has received back the glory he had before creation
  - 2. He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father
  - 3. Far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, Eph. 1:21

### Conclusion:

- 1. His life, death, and resurrection can are demonstrable.
- 2. Peter's witness can be believed on its own merit.
- 3. His conclusion is to believe, repent, and be baptized, Acts 2:38.
- 4. To submit to these commands is the essence of the Christian faith.
- 5. If we love him we will obey him.