

The Righteous for the Unrighteous
1 Peter 3:18-20

There are few passages that capture the disaster of sin and what it does to people made in God's image better than Genesis 6:5-6: ... Note two things from this passage. First, the effect of sin on people was deep, heart deep. Sin is not just a matter of bad behavior. It is a condition of the heart. That's why you cannot free yourself from it. Second, the effects of sin on you and me are comprehensive. Note the words "every intention coupled with the words 'only evil continually.'

But the passage tells us more. God was not satisfied leaving us in the disaster of sin. The disease that infected the heart of every human being produced sorrow in his heart. But his sorrow was not just the sorrow of remorse or the sorrow of judgment; it was the sorrow of grace. The words of Genesis 6:8—"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord"—tell you that Genesis 6 is not the end of the story. God would not just punish sin; he would raise up a nation out of which his son would come to live and die to deliver us from it. The cross of his Son stands as a lasting reminder of just how desperate our need is for the grace that that cross represents." Paul Tripp

- I. Jesus whole purpose in willingly going to the cross to sacrifice himself for our sins was to provide a way for us to be made right with God. Otherwise, we would have remained alienated from him forever in a place where love, grace and mercy are no longer available for the unrighteous. It is hard for us to fully grasp the meaning, let alone the importance of reconciliation. But it has been offered, and we responded by faith. Consequently, we will be presented to God by Christ Himself as holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

1 Peter 3:18

Colossians 1:21-22 *21Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-*

- II. As aliens and strangers in this world, we have been given the ability to **objectively** see the world as it truly is, a hopeless, screwed up, godless, nonsensical, wicked, evil world system that is controlled by the dark forces of God's enemies. We may be affected by its influence in many ways, yet its strain on us is to be seen as a temporary consequence of living in a fallen world. Our challenge is to counteract its negative influence by developing and keeping a biblical worldview.

1 Peter 3:17
1 Peter 2:21,24
Rom. 5:9-11
1 Peter 2:11
1 Peter 5:8
Isa. 59:1-2

Eph. 6:12-13 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

- III. Please understand, we serve a victorious God. Not all is lost, not all is hopeless. Jesus victory became our victory over all things, over sin, over godlessness, over the sinful desires that war against our souls (2:11), over evil, Satan, demonic beings, and the spiritual forces of wickedness in high places. It is a victory Jesus proclaimed to the seen and unseen world by his death and resurrection. His victory was comprehensive, there is no realm that is not subject to His authority and judgment. Fortunately, his victory and our salvation means that there will never be any condemnation for those of us who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1).

1 Peter 3:19-20
Ps. 37:12-15
Gen. 6:5-6, 11-13
2 Thess. 2:7-12
Heb. 11:6-7
2 Peter 2:4-9
Phil. 2:8-11

1 Cor. 15:57-58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.