

## **"The Basis for Baptism"** **1 Peter 3:18-22**

1. J.M.E. Ross wrote that verse 18 is "one of the shortest and simplest, and yet one of the richest summaries given in the New Testament of the meaning of the Cross of Jesus". What purposes are given in this verse for Christ's death on the Cross?
2. What phrase in verse 18 stands in contrast with the Old Testament sacrificial system of atonement and declares the sufficiency of Christ's death?  
  
What phrase speaks to the substitutionary nature of Christ's death?  
  
Peter concludes this summary of Christ's redemptive work by referring to His resurrection. What does he say?
3. 1 Peter 3:19-20 is a difficult passage in Scripture. For further study, read through and discuss the additional notes that were posted on the meaning of the "Places of the Dead" and where Christ went after His crucifixion to proclaim His victory.
4. God's patience was seen during the 120 years while Noah was building the ark but the people continued to disobey and rebel against the message of God. God was clear that He would not tolerate their wickedness forever. What was Noah's reward for obeying God and proclaiming His message?
5. Speaking of water (and Noah's deliverance from the flood), Peter then transitions to baptism. As the Flood wiped away the old sinful world, baptism is picture of one's break from the old sinful life and an entrance into a new life in Christ. What else is symbolized in baptism?  
  
What would you say if someone told you: "I was baptized as an infant but I'm thinking about getting baptized again as an adult. Why do you think this would be an important step in my faith journey?"
6. Baptism does not save us from sin. Baptism is a symbol of what has already occurred in the heart and life of a person who has placed their trust in Christ as Savior. To make this point clear, what does Peter reaffirm as the source of our salvation at the end of verse 21?