
The Pursuit of Holiness

Grounding My Faith in Truth

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, May6, 2018*

“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,” 1 Peter 3:15, ESV

“¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because 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. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. 1 Peter 3:18–22, ESV

The Problems

Two Very Difficult Concepts

Where Did Jesus Go & Why?

Does Baptism Save You?

Where Do I Begin?

Basic Rules for Interpreting Difficult Passages

Clear Passages Guide Unclear Passages

Majority of Bible Verses Guide Our Understanding
of The Minority Verses

What Have Others Said?

Organize Your Research

Who Are the Spirits?

Fallen Angels – The Disobedient People Destroyed the Flood

They Are Disembodied

They Are Imprisoned

Their Sin Was Committed Before the Flood

Jesus Visited the Place of Their Captivity to

Make an Announcement to Them

What did Jesus Proclaim?

His Victory over Sin

Offered a 2nd Chance to Repent

Release from Purgatory

When Did Jesus Make this Proclamation?

During the Three Days His Body was in the Grave

In the Days of Noah

What's Important?

I Don't Have to Know Everything About the Bible
But I Do Need to Learn What's Important in The Bible

I Overcome What I Don't Know by What I Can Know

"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *John 14:6, ESV* (see *1 Peter 3:8; Acts 4:12*)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God," *Ephesians 2:8, ESV*

"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." *Romans 10:9–10, ESV* (see *Luke 14:25*)

"No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." *Luke 13:3, ESV* (See *Hebrews 9:27; Luke 16:26*)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." *1 John 1:9, ESV*

What's Necessary for Salvation?

Jesus – Confession

Repentance – Faith/Belief

Surrender

How Does This Apply to Baptism?

Baptism Is My Confession of Faith