

# FIRST PETER

## PART 103

### "THE VICTORIOUS CHRIST AT EASTER"

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Last week we began to study the amazing events that took place when the human body of Jesus Christ was entombed. According to I Peter 3:19, while Christ was in the state of physical death, He was very active in His Divine Spirit, human soul and spirit. Peter makes the statement that Christ took a trip and His destination was Paradise, which at that time was in the heart of the earth.

After a joyous reunion with the Old Testament saints, Christ then welcomed the believing criminal into Paradise. What a celebration it must have been as possibly the last Old Testament saint to be saved was welcomed. Jesus Christ won a great victory as He took the keys of death and Hades away from Satan. Thankfully, this victory is forevermore.

However, a great victory message is yet to come. From Paradise, the Lord Jesus is about to capture the attention of all who can hear Him. The "finished" work at Calvary is a major victory and all who are in the heart of the earth will realize that. Here are some of those details.

# LOCATION OF CHRIST AS HE PREACHES

## I PETER 3:19

- He is already in **Paradise** after welcoming the believing criminal. (*Luke 23:43*)
- We know, from several places in Scripture, that He is in the **heart** of the earth. (*Matthew 12:40; Ephesians 4:9*)
- Because of the "**compartments**" in Sheol, Christ can be in Paradise and not be in **Hades**.
- Remember, only the souls and spirits of the dead are in the heart of the earth, no **physical** bodies.

# THE VICTORY MESSAGE

## I PETER 3:19-20

### The Location of the Recipients

- These spirits are in a **prison**.
- 2 Peter 2:4 identifies this prison as "**Tartarus**."

### The Identity of the Spirits

- Jude 6-7 identifies them as fallen angels or **demons**.
- They are also **bound** and not free to serve their king, Satan.

## The Reason for Their Imprisonment

- They committed a very **evil** act.
- This sin is **identified** in Jude 6-7.
- It is further **explained** in Genesis 6:1-4.
- These demons were following orders from their **commander-in-chief**.
- This was an all out war to try and stop the **bloodline** of the promised seed. (*Genesis 3:15*)
- As a result of this sin, even the **animal** kingdom had been corrupted.

## The Purpose of the Message

- To make a public "**spectacle**" of the guilty demons.
- To let all in **Sheol** know that He (Christ) was completely victorious at the cross.
- To display the "**prisoners of war**."
- To publicly demonstrate the **consequences** of opposing the living Christ. To settle, once and for all, the **sufficiency** of the sacrifice of Christ at the cross.
- To ready the saints in Paradise for their **move** up to the edge of the third heaven. (*2 Corinthians 12:2*)

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- All of this is recorded in Holy Scripture so that we might fully **appreciate** our complete salvation.
- We cannot **neglect** such great salvation!

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. How does the “finished” work of Christ affect your daily behavior?
2. How does Christ’s victory give you encouragement to be more victorious here on earth?
3. Are there any areas in your life that are not showing the power of the victorious Christ?