

“WORD OF LIFE”

August 29, 2021

CHRIST WORK IN HIS BURIAL





GOD BREATHED (2 Tim 3:16):

- 1Pet. 3:18 - “For Christ also has suffered ..., on the one hand being put to **death in the flesh**, but on the other, made **alive in the Spirit**;”
- 1Pet. 3:19 - “In which also He went and **proclaimed** to the **spirits in prison**,”
- 1Pet. 3:20 - “Who had **formerly disobeyed** when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared;...”

THE EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (Phil. 3:8):

- 1Pet. 3:18 says, “Christ was put to death in flesh, but **made alive in spirit**.”
- The **crucifixion** put Christ to death
 - **only in His flesh** which He received through incarnation,
 - **not in His spirit** as His divinity.
 - His Spirit as His **divinity** did not die at the cross when His flesh died; rather
 - Christ’s spirit was made alive, enlivened with new power of life,
 - Christ’s empowered spirit made a proclamation to the fallen angels **after** His death in the flesh and **before** His resurrection.
 - “*Made alive in the spirit*”
 - does not the Holy Spirit but the Spirit as the essence of His divinity, His nature
 - does not refer to Christ resurrection
- 1Pet. 3:19 says, “In which also having **gone to the spirits in prison**, He proclaimed ...”
- When Christ was buried in the tomb, in His empowered spirit, He went to the abyss to proclaim God’s victory to the rebellious angels.
 - Christ, after dying in the flesh, was still active; He made a proclamation to the spirits in prison.
 - the **prison** refers to **Tartarus**, the **deep and gloomy pits** (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6) where the fallen angels are kept
 - the spirits here **do not refer** to the disembodied spirits of dead human beings held in Hades,
 - **but to the angels** (angels are spirits—Heb. 1:14) who fell through disobedience at Noah’s time (1 Pet. 3:20; Gen. 6:4)
 - and are imprisoned in pits of gloom for the judgment of the great day (2 Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 6)
- The proclamation was made to “*those once disobedient*” (1 Pet. 3:20).
- Not the preaching of the good news but the **proclaiming of the triumphant victory**.
 - To proclaim, perhaps, God’s victory through His incarnation in Christ and Christ’s death in the flesh, over Satan’s scheme to derange the divine plan.

SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE (Act 5:20):

-  Christ died on the cross for our redemption. But although He was put to death in His body, He was enlivened and empowered in His spirit, even before the resurrection.
-  In this enlivened and empowered spirit He went to proclaim to the rebellious angels God’s victory over Satan, their leader.
-  Hence, Christ’s death not only accomplished redemption for us, but also gained the victory over Satan and his followers.
-  After His death and before His resurrection, Christ proclaimed to Satan’s followers God’s victory over the Devil through the crucifixion of Christ. This was Christ’s work in His burial.