

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

Sermon Series in 1 Peter

1 Peter 4

Christ the Loving Judge ~ Contradiction or Reality?

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(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

In review of last Sunday's sermon (particularly 1 Peter 3:21), we learned of the corresponding relationship between the flood event starting in Genesis six and the meaning of Believer's water-baptism in the New Testament. Both concern people who already had faith. These are the Believers. Noah and his family did not become Believers (righteous people) at the time of the Flood. Looking at the chronology of Noah's life and the births of his children, it took 50 to 75 years to build the Ark (range scholars give). Obviously, Noah and his family were Believer's way before they entered the Ark. This corresponds to Believer's water-baptism who are already Believer's prior to being water-baptized. The Apostle Paul, writing as an instrument of God's Holy Spirit, teaches us this in Romans.

^{NAS} **Romans 6:1-7**

1 What shall we say then?

Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?

² May it never be!

How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

³ Or do you not know

that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
have been baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

This passage clearly states that the water in water-baptism corresponds to death. Hence, we pointed out last week that the water in the Flood account brought death, and we also observed that being in the Ark was like being with God/Christ who safely carries the people through the death-waters of the flood. Coming up out of the water in a water-baptism symbolizes Christ's raising us from the grave into a new life. Noah and his family were brought to a new life after the flood, because they were joined with God in the Ark. The newness of life in both stories addresses us moving past a sinful world in the Flood account, and, in Believer's water-baptism, we are witnessing that we have left behind a life of sin. The Roman passage does not mention Noah or the Flood, but the corresponding witness is the same in 1 Peter.

The last verse in chapter three of 1 Peter:

1 Peter 3:22 who is at the right hand of God,
 having gone into heaven,
 after angels and authorities and powers
 had been subjected to Him.

This week's sermon verses

1 Peter 4:1 Therefore,
since Christ has suffered in the flesh,
arm yourselves also with the same purpose,
because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

² so as to **live the rest of the time** in the flesh
no longer for the lusts of men,
but for the **will of God.**

³ For the time already past
is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles,
having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness,
carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

⁴ And in *all* this,
they are surprised that you do not run with *them*
into the same excess of dissipation,
and they malign you;

⁵ but they shall give account to Him
who is ready to **judge the living and the dead.**

Reference: Great White Throne Judgment ~ Rev. 20:11

Continue . . . 1 Peter 4:6 For the gospel has for this purpose been
preached **even to those who are dead**, that though they are judged in
the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Verses concerning judgement:

1 Peter 3:20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. ¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation (kerysso ~ announces as apposed to euangleizo ~ to proclaim good news) to the spirits now in prison,
²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah,

This announcement is a proclamation of their guilt and condemnation.

Acts 10:42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

2 Tim 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

Mat 12:36 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

John 5:22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,

Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

Jude 1:14 And about these also Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

Note: The Jewish book called Enoch was believed to have been written no more than 300 years before Christ. The reference in Jude is ascribed to the Enoch in Genesis which is recorded in this Jewish book called Enoch. The Jewish book called Enoch is not part of the Jewish cannon, but is considered a reference in Jewish history.

Jude 1:15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Below is more Scripture in **Jude** to get a better contextual view.

Jude 1:11-25 Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

¹² These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;

¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ And about these also Enoch, *in the seventh generation* from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,

¹⁵ to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

¹⁶ These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an* advantage.

¹⁷ But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁸ that they were saying to you, "In the last time there shall be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."

¹⁹ These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit;

²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

²² And have mercy on some, who are doubting;

²³ save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

1 Peter 4 continued . . .

⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.

Verses 1 – 7 in 1 Peter addresses the conduct of the saints and is a declaration that those who have rejected God will be judged. This Scripture has the judgment of Christ reaching past the grave into the next life to judge not only people but to judge evil spirits. These evil people and spirits are identified in the days of Noah, and Enoch spoke of them. To be clear, final judgement will take place at the Great White Throne described in Revelation 20:11. Per Scripture, above, Christ goes and tells the evil spirits of their judgment finality. Our fate in judgment is set at the end of our earthly lives. Scripture witnesses to us in Luke 16:19-31 were the “chasm” in fixed (Luke 16:26) once we leave this life. This lends to a discussion concerning man’s second chance and our loving God being fair to ensure that all have had their opportunity to surrender to Him. We remind ourselves that God, not man, is the one who reaches out to everyone from the beginning of the creation in order that everyone is given an opportunity to come to Him. God witnesses to everyone through the creation (Romans 1:18-20, 10:13-18). Concerning children, we have a passage of Scripture in Mark 10:13, which positions the innocence of children to be cradled securely in the arms of Christ. This gives allowance for infants (and aborted babies) and children who die to fall under God’s grace. This is God’s design and doing. This is not man’s business. What is man’s business, that is the Believer, is to avail ourselves to God, as part of His creation to be a part of announcing His

Gospel to accountable people. We do not save anyone. We are just God's voice. It is in His name we go forward.

Therefore, we receive application to our lives from these passages of Scripture. What are these applications?

1. We, Christians, can **expect persecution**.
2. We are to receive the persecution as a **badge of honor** as we participate with the sufferings of Christ.
3. We **witness the overcoming power of God working through us**. This is one of the eternal messages from the Cross of Christ. God knew beforehand (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53) that the Cross would be the **act and symbol** to us and the world that He did not want us to suffer the penalty for our own sins. God's great love (John 3:16) gave the propitiation (payment for sin) for our sin. Fallen man rejects the need to seek out/turn to God for the forgiveness of sin. No need to seek God's forgiveness when fallen man defines his own bad evil desires and deeds as good. Everything is relative with fallen man. There are no wrongs. Life is situational.
4. By our witness, **we praise and rejoice in our persecution**. In the last part of the Beatitudes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we are encouraged by Jesus.

Matthew 5:1 And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

² And opening His mouth He *began* to teach them, saying,

³ "Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

[The first seven blessings give ability and spiritual strength to endure and rejoice persecution (verses 10-12).]

- 10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.
- 12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.
- 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ "Nor do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

¹⁶ "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

¹⁹ "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Christ Message lives in all Believers, that is you and I. Therefore, we are compelled to reach out to others with the love of Jesus from the Cross that says:

God created us to live life in His image. Therefore, God has a design for our lives spelled out in the creation and in His Word, the Bible.

God gave us free will to choose Him or not to choose Him and His plan for our lives. Obviously, we have all chosen our own way apart from

God. Therefore creating the need to be restored to a right relationship with God.

God wants to restore the broken relationship caused by our own choices.

God desires to save all people, but He leaves the choice to us.

God's voice is heard throughout the creation calling all people to Him through what He has made.

God chose the Cross to demonstrate the mandatory need for the payment of sin, and He willingly, by His inexhaustible love, incarnated himself to pay the price, in the flesh, on The Cross for their sins.

God's Cross demonstrates that He does not want them to live eternally separated from Him. God does not want them to live with guilt, unforgiveness, hate, rebellion and separated from Him and His assembly.

God desires for them to be separated from sin that damages their lives and keeps them at a distance from Him.

God has a place prepared for them called Heaven.

God is faithful to complete the work He starts in them, the salvation of their soul.

God desires for them to choose Him back . . . No one will be in God's Heaven who does not want to be there.

Continue in 1 Peter 4: . . .

⁸ Above all,

keep fervent in your love for one another,
because love covers a multitude of sins.

⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

¹⁰ As each one has received a *special* gift,
employ it in serving one another,
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

¹¹ Whoever speaks,

let him speak,

as it were, the utterances of God;

whoever serves,

let him do so as by the strength which God supplies;

so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,

to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.

Amen.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you,

which comes upon you for your testing,

as though some strange thing were happening to you;

¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ,

keep on rejoicing;

so that also at the revelation of His glory,

you may rejoice with exultation.

¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ,

you are blessed,

because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

- ¹⁵ By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;
- ¹⁶ but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.
- ¹⁷ For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- ¹⁸ And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?
- ¹⁹ Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.