

***Living for Christ
in a Hostile World***
Studies in 1 Peter

Our Bridge to God
1 Peter 3.18-20

- **How can we get to God?**
**Christ died for sins once for all,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
to bring you to God 1 Peter 3v18**
an audience with royalty

1. Why a Bridge is needed

- **the creature/Creator gulf is vast**
Isaiah 40.12-14; Job 42.3,6
- **the moral gulf is immense, too**
holy God – unholy humans
Psalm 24.3-4; Rom 3.10; Ps 130.3

2. How the Bridge has been Constructed

➤ *Jesus: chosen, then revealed* **1.20; John 1.1**

➤ *Jesus: died for sins*

sin offering – a penalty for sins **Lev 5.7**

to make atonement **Lev 6.30**

*“without the shedding of blood
there is no forgiveness”* **Heb 9.22**

God is just – sin must be punished

sin pays a wage: death **Rom 6.23**

Jesus bore responsibility for our sins

he received our death penalty **2.24**

a sin offering for all

Rom 8.3; 1 John 2.2; 4.10

2. How the Bridge has been Constructed (cont)

- ***Jesus: died in place of sinners***
sinless himself, so qualified to bear sin 2.22
so, the only way to God John 14.6; Acts 4.12
- ***Jesus: died, once for all time***
the cross need never be repeated
unlike Old Testament animal sacrifices
Heb 9.26,28; 10.1-4,10-14, 19-22
the way is now open to all! Mark 15.38

2. How the Bridge has been Constructed (cont)

- **Jesus: his victory proclamation vs18-20**
 - put to death in his body**
 - made alive again in his spirit**
 - body 2.24; spirit Luke 23.46; soul Mat 26.38**
 - spirit committed into God's hand**
 - death, as sin borne for world Mat 27.46**
 - life taken up again John 10.18; Acts 2.24; Rev 2.8**
 - he had died to all sin demanded of him Rom 6.10**
 - victory proclaimed to spirit world**
 - rebellious spirits from before flood**
 - being held for final sentencing**
 - 2 Pet 2.4; Jude 6; Col 2.14-15**

2. How the Bridge has been Constructed (cont)

- **Jesus: his public re-emergence v21**
his triumphant resurrection
proof of identity as God's Son **Rom 1.4**
proof of sufficiency of sacrifice **Rom 4.25**
proof of death's conquest **Heb 2.14-15**

3. What happens when we cross the Bridge

- **We must trust ourselves to Jesus**
to gain access to God John 14.6
- **then we enjoy**
confidence Eph 2.18; 3.12
assurance Heb 10.19,22
mercy and grace Heb 4.16
peace, joy, hope Rom 5.1-2
redemption, forgiveness, reconciliation
no accusation Col 1.13-14, 21-22
- **Jesus is enthroned forever! v22**