

“A FEW, THAT IS, EIGHT SOULS”

Introduction

- 1) **1 Peter 3:20** – “...who formerly were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which *a few, that is, eight souls*, were saved through water”
- 2) Peter uses the example of what happened in the days of Noah to give encouragement and hope to suffering Christians – God saved precious souls then and will do so now through Christ
- 3) Souls are important to God – how important is your soul to you?

I) A FEW SOULS

- A) **Eight** – Noah, his wife, his three sons (Shem, Ham, Japheth) and their wives (Gen. 7:13)
 - 1) “Few” compared to the total number of souls in that day (millions? billions?)
 - 2) Small number is because most men lacked faith in God and His way (Matt. 7:13-14, 21)
- B) “Soul” (Gk. *psuche*) – a moral being designed for eternal life; man made in the image of God dwelling in the flesh (Gen. 2:7)
 - 1) The saving of the souls of men is the focus of God’s plan of redemption (1 Pet. 3:18, 21)
 - 2) No animals on the ark were considered “souls” in the same way as the eight humans

II) OUR SOULS NEED TO BE PURIFIED FROM SIN

- A) **1 Peter 1:22** – “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit”
- B) Sin leaves stains and blemishes upon our souls (Isa. 1:18; Jer. 2:22; Psa. 51:1-2)
 - 1) We must see the filth of sin as God sees it (2 Cor. 7:1)
- C) Souls are purified in “obeying the truth” – power of the gospel (Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:21-22)
 - 1) Purified by cleansing by the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5; 7:14) in baptism (Eph. 5:25-26)
 - 2) Why baptism “now saves us” by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:41)
 - 3) Constantly available to cleanse us from sin (1 Jn. 1:7-9)

III) OUR SOULS NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM EVIL

- A) **1 Peter 2:11** – “Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”
- B) Satan is actively working to capture our soul to his corruption (2 Tim. 2:24-26)
 - 1) Christians must be on guard against all sin and error (2 Pet. 2:20; 1 Tim. 6:20-21)
 - 2) Satan will try to make us a slave to unrighteousness – we must choose to “abstain from fleshly lusts” (1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; Rom. 12:9; 1 Cor. 10:13)

IV) OUR SOULS NEED TO BE GUIDED BY DIVINE AUTHORITY

- A) **1 Peter 2:25** – “But [you] have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls”
- B) Our Lord and Savior Jesus is our leader and guide in all things (Jn. 10:27; Psa. 23:1-3)
 - 1) We must do only those things authorized by Jesus (Col. 3:17; Lk. 6:46; Jer. 6:16)
 - 2) We will stand before Christ in judgment (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12)

V) OUR SOULS NEED TO BE COMMITTED TO GOD

- A) **1 Peter 4:19** – “Let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator” (“commit the keeping of their souls” KJV)
- B) “Commit” – Greek word means “to set close beside”; it is the idea of entrusting our souls to God’s faithful care as we do good (Heb. 10:35-39)
 - 1) We have been created in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph. 2:10); we need to trust our souls to God in facing whatever may come in life (2 Tim. 1:12)

Conclusion

Don’t lose your soul – it is worth more than the whole world (Matt. 16:25-26)! How is your soul?