

First Peter 3:13-4:6



Monday Night Meeting

Outline



- ❧ Salutation (1:1-2)
- ❧ God's Gracious Activity in the Lives of Suffering Believers (1:3-2:10)
- ❧ The Mission of Suffering Believers in the World (2:11-4:6)
 - ❧ The General Strategy (2:11-12)
 - ❧ The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)
 - ❧ **The Promise of Vindication (3:13-4:6)**
- ❧ The Mission of Suffering Believers in the Church (4:7-5:11)
- ❧ Final Greeting (5:12-14)

Key Question



☞ Why is it better to suffer for doing right?

☞ **Vindicate**= show or prove to be right

The Logic of our Text



☞ **3:10-13 The Truth:** If God is for you, no one can do you harm.

☞ 3:10-12 God is for the righteous

☞ 3:13 You are zealous to do right

The Logic of our Text

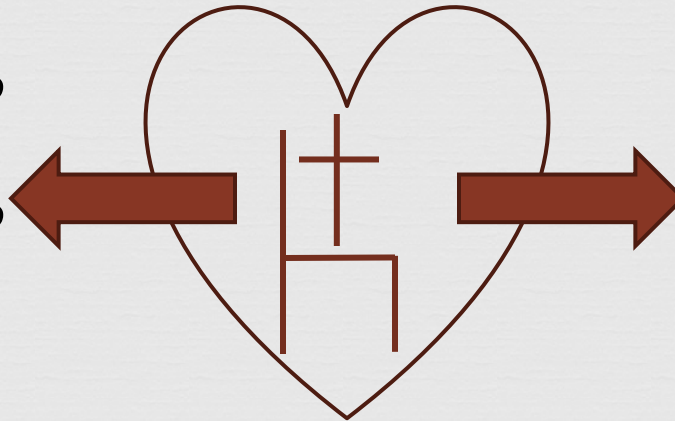


- ❧ **3:14-17 The Apparent Contradiction:** But even if, temporarily now, you should suffer for doing right, it's to your advantage so respond rightly!
 - ❧ 3:14 Don't fear men
 - ❧ 3:15 Set Christ apart as Lord in your heart

Holy Lifestyle

Against Culture:

- Refusing to worship Emperor
- Refusing to worship husband's gods
- Refusing to party with your neighbor



Best of Culture:

- Best citizen
- Best slave
- Best wife
- Best husband
- Best neighbor

The source of a holy lifestyle is a holy Lord reigning our heart!

The Logic of our Text



- ❧ **3:14-17 The Apparent Contradiction:** But even if, temporarily now, you should suffer for doing right, it's to your advantage so respond rightly!
 - ❧ 3:14 Don't fear men
 - ❧ 3:15 Set Christ apart as Lord in your heart
 - ❧ 3:15 Be ready to give an answer to those with questions
 - ❧ 3:16-17 keep a good conscience

The Logic of our Text

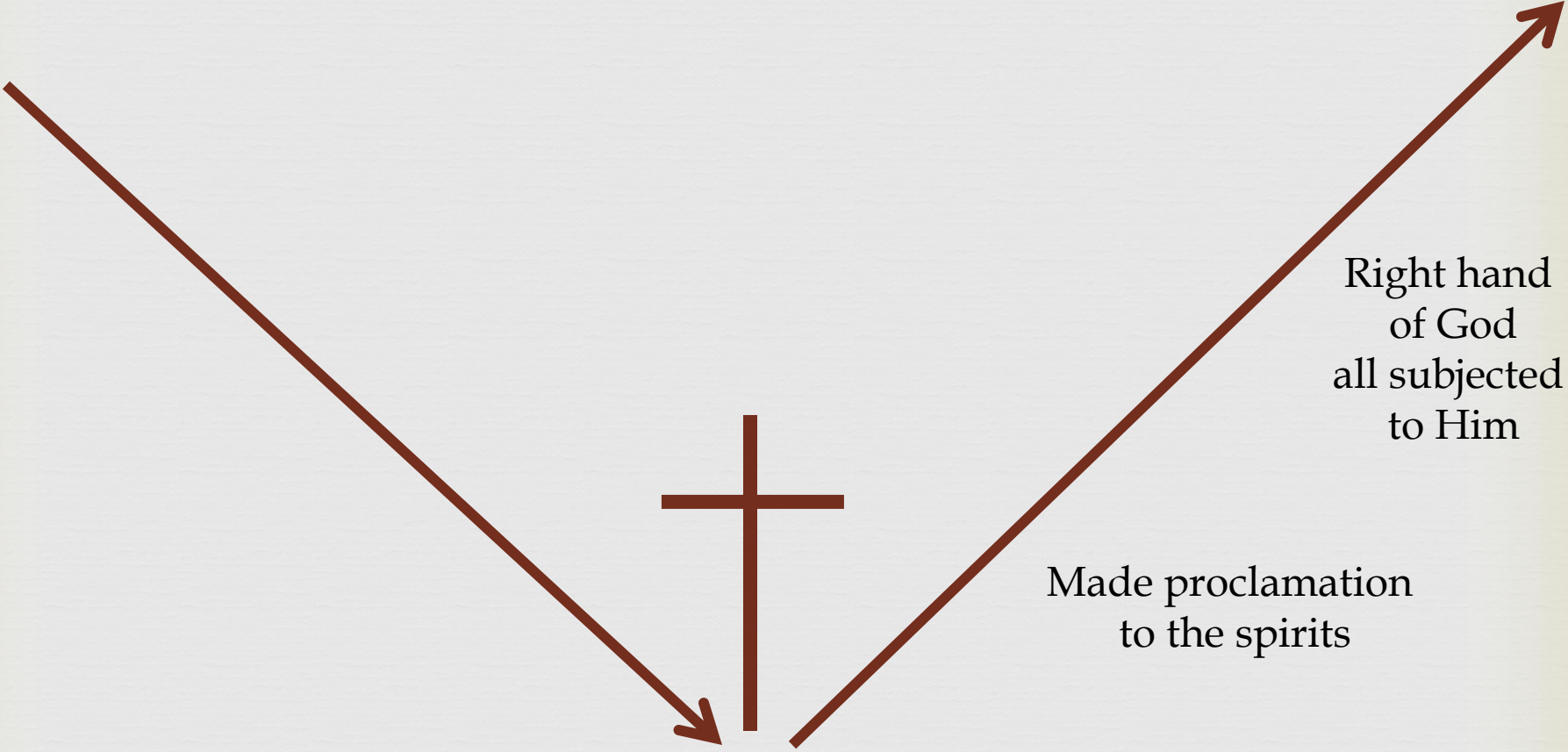


- ❧ **3:18-22 The Example of Christ:** Christ persevered in suffering for doing right and was vindicated.
 - ❧ 3:18 Jesus suffered, the righteous for the unrighteous.
 - ❧ 3:18-19 Jesus was raised from the dead and proclaimed his victory over demonic spirits.
 - ❧ 3:22 Jesus is now exalted at the right hand of God with all authorities and powers subjected to him.

The Logic of our Text



- ❧ **4:1-6 The Only Reasonable Response:** Therefore, choose to suffer for doing right (God's will) because this is the pathway to victory and vindication.
- ❧ 4:1-2 Since Christ chose the path of righteous suffering (and was vindicated), you also embrace suffering when it lies in the path of God's will.
- ❧ 4:3-6 Remember that those who choose the course of this world, and refuse to do the will of God will very soon give an account to God the righteous judge.



Put to death in the flesh, but made alive

Made proclamation
to the spirits

Right hand
of God
all subjected
to Him

In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



☞ ***Consider Christ (v. 18-19)***

☞ **Spirits:** In his resurrected state or during his ascension, Christ proclaimed victory and judgment over all demonic powers represented by the angels who sinned by “marrying” women according to Gen 6:1-4. (Majority view)

3rd Heaven:

God's Dwelling Place
(Eph. 1:20-21; 2 Cor. 12:2)

*"At the right
hand of God"*
(1 Peter 3:22)

2nd Heaven:

Demonic Spirit World
(Eph. 6:12; Luke 10:18)

*"made proclamation
to the spirits
in prison..."*
(1 Peter 3:19)

1st Heaven:

Physical Heavens, Atmosphere,
Sun, Moon, Stars
(Eph. 1:20-21; 2 Cor. 12:2)

*"a cloud received
Him out of sight"*
(Acts 1:9)



In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



❧ *Other Major Views:*

- ❧ **Humans:** Christ (in spirit) preached through Noah to those who lived while Noah was building the Ark but are now “spirits in prison” (people in hell). (Augustine, Aquinas, Guthrie, Grudem)
- ❧ **Humans:** Christ went and liberated OT saints (in prison) between his death and resurrection. (Calvin)
- ❧ **Humans:** After his death, Christ went to hell and preached the gospel, offering them a second chance of salvation. (Barclay)
- ❧ **Humans:** After his death, Christ went to hell and proclaimed to people his victory and their condemnation. (Lenski)

In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



☞ *Arguments for View:*

☞ **Linguistically:**

- ☞ **“Spirits”**= Almost without exception, the plural form of “pneuma” refers to angels (mostly evil) (Heb. 12:13 is the only place “spirits” refers to human beings).
- ☞ **“Prison”**= It is used 47 times to speak of a physical earthly prison. It is never used as a place of punishment for humans after death. It is used 3x in Revelation, twice to refer to a place for evil spirits (Rev 18:2) and once as Satan’s place of confinement during the millennium (Rev 20:7).

In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



- ☞ **Contextually:** The knowledge that all powers, all authorities, all demons, all people are under the subjection of Christ would bring enormous comfort to suffering believers.
- ☞ **Theologically:** Christ's death, resurrection and ascension in the NT is repeatedly connected to his triumph over demonic powers (Col. 2:14-15; Heb. 2:14; Eph 1:19-22).

In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



- ❧ **Historically:** The accepted Jewish interpretation of Gen. 6:1-4 can be found in the literature of Peter's day (1 Enoch 6-19, 21, 86-88; 106:13-17; Jub. 4:15, 22, 5:1; T. Reu. 5:6-7; T. Naph 3:5; 2 Bar. 56:10-14; Jos. Ant. 1:73). Jews of the first century, including, I think, Peter, believed that prior to the flood, angels cohabitated with women producing giants. This resulted in so much evil that God destroyed the earth via a flood and, according to Jewish tradition, imprisoned the angels who sinned. What is interesting is that a connection was made between the angel's sin and the presence of evil spirits on the earth.
- ❧ Whether Peter believed in every detail of this tradition cannot be known. That he is alluding to it in order to make a point is difficult to deny.

3 Wherefore have ye left the high, holy, and eternal heaven, and lain with women, and defiled yourselves with the daughters of men and taken to yourselves wives, and done like the children
4 of earth, and begotten giants (as your) sons?

8 And now, the giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits upon
9 the earth, and on the earth shall be their dwelling. Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies; because they are born from men and from the holy Watchers is their beginning and primal origin;
10 they shall be evil spirits on earth, and evil spirits shall they be called.


11 And the spirits of the giants afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle, and work destruction on the earth, and cause trouble: they take no food, but nevertheless
12 hunger and thirst, and cause offences. And these spirits shall rise up against the children of men and against the women, because they have proceeded from them. **(1 Enoch 15:3-12)**

NOAH	PETER'S READERS
Righteous minority	Righteous minority
Surrounded by hostile unbelievers	Surrounded by hostile unbelievers
God's judgment is delayed for a time giving opportunity for repentance	God's judgment is delayed for a time giving opportunity for repentance
An Ark is being built through which Noah and his family escape judgment	A "Spiritual house" is being built through which one escapes judgment
Noah witnessed boldly by his actions	They should witness boldly by their actions
Salvation is experienced by passing through the waters of the flood	Salvation is experienced by passing through the waters of baptism
Noah was finally vindicated	They will finally be vindicated

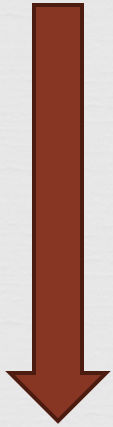
In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



Remember Noah (v.20)

 Noah made the choice that it was better to suffer now for doing God's will than to suffer judgment latter.

Baptism now saves you



{ Not the removal of dirt from
the flesh, but an appeal to
God for a good conscience }

Parenthetical
Explanation

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



☞ *Remember your Baptism (v. 21)*

☞ **Water**= typifies death and judgment.

☞ “The waters of baptism, like the waters of the flood, demonstrate that destruction is at hand, but believers are rescued from these waters in that they are baptized with Christ, who has also emerged from the waters of death through his resurrection” (Schreiner 194).

In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



☞ *Remember your Baptism (v. 21)*

☞ **An appeal to God for/from a good conscience:** Two possibilities

☞ Pledge (as in a legal contract) to God FROM a good conscience.

☞ Appeal (request, prayer) to God FOR a good conscience

☞ In baptism, we ask God, on the basis of Christ's death and resurrection, that He would cleanse us from sin and an evil conscience.

☞ When we get baptized, we are like the few in Noah's day, who make the choice that it is better to be identified with Christ now and suffer with Christ now than suffer judgment later.

In Depth: Christ's Example (3:18-22)



✧ *Again... Consider Christ (v. 22)*

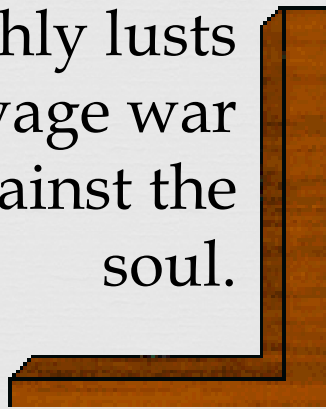
✧ Christ made the choice that it was better to suffer for doing God's will and was vindicated. All things, whether angels, or authorities, or powers have been subjected (hupotasso- same word as 2:13, 18; 3:1) to him.

Bookends



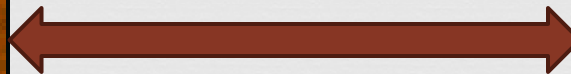
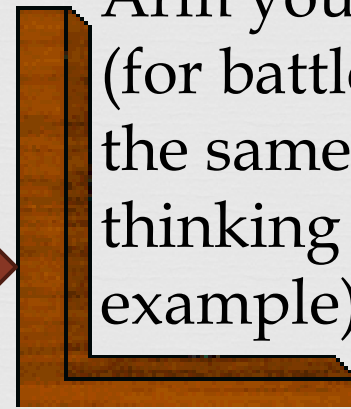
2:11-12

Fleshly lusts
wage war
against the
soul.



4:1-6

Arm yourself
(for battle) with
the same way of
thinking (Christ's
example)



In Depth: Preaching to the Dead (4:6)



-
- ☞ “Gospel had been preached even to the dead” =
 - ☞ Spiritually dead (Augustine, Luther)
 - ☞ Second chance after death. (Barclay)
 - ☞ Gospel had been preached to people who were alive but are “now” dead. (Majority, NIV)

In Depth: Preaching to the Dead (4:6)



☞ **Summary:** “Unbelievers viewed the death of believers as proof that there is no advantage in becoming a believer, for all without exception die. Peter indicated, however, that unbelievers do not understand the whole picture. Even though from a human perspective believers seem to gain no benefits from their faith since they die, from God’s perspective (which is normative), they live according to the Spirit.” (Schreiner 208)

In Depth: Preaching to the Dead (4:6)



☞ **Paraphrase:** We preach the gospel to people who will die so that even though they experience death in the flesh and thus are judged according to men, they might live according to God by means of the Spirit.

Christ's descent (2:21-25)

Physical Realm: "in the flesh"

Christ is our Example

- Quiet
- Meek
- No Retribution

LOSERS

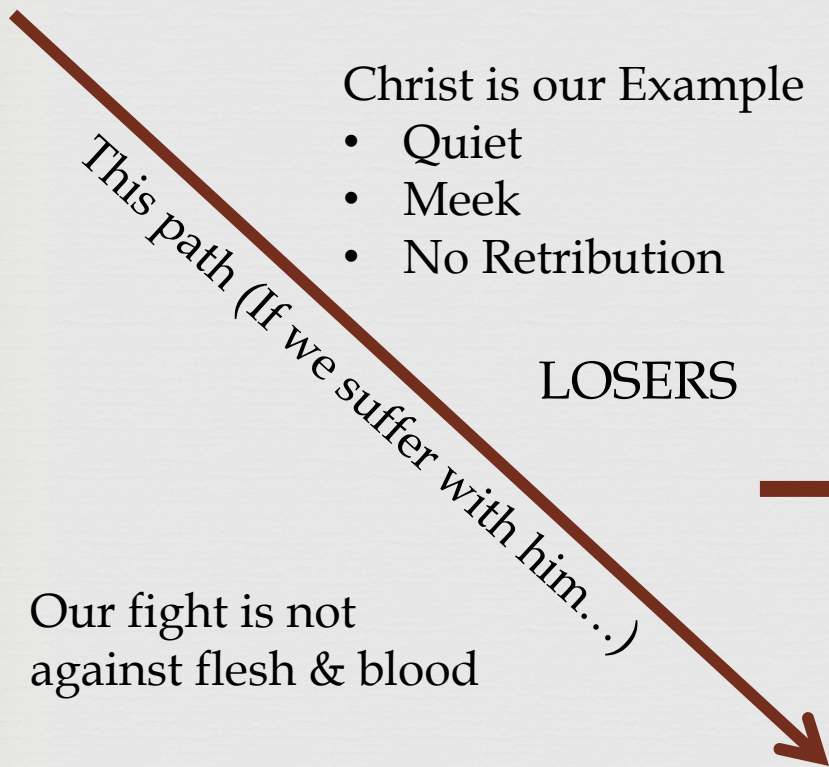
Christ's ascent (3:18-22)

Spiritual Realm: "by the Spirit"

Christ is our Confidence

- Loud
- Bold
- In Your Face

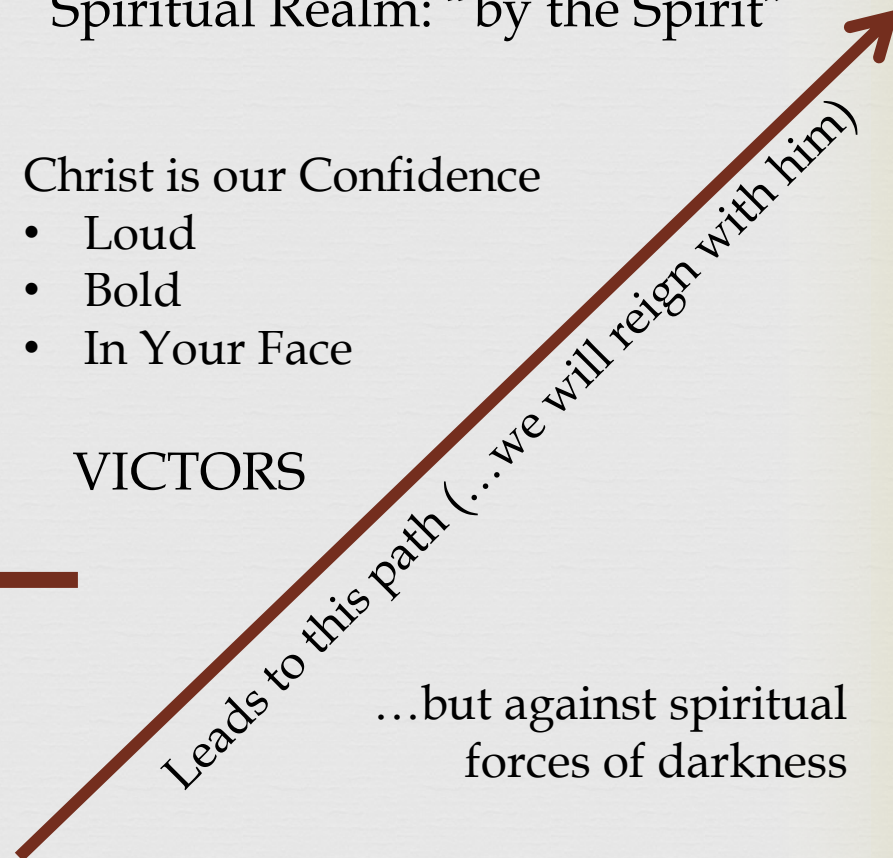
VICTORS



Our fight is not
against flesh & blood



Physical death is
not the last word!



...but against spiritual
forces of darkness

Question for August 5



- ✧ What does Peter mean in 4:17-18 when he implies that their participation in the sufferings of Christ (4:13) is in fact God's judgment on his people? What light does Malachi 2:17-3:6 shed on 1 Peter 4:17-18?

Christ's (2:21-25)

Christ's (3:18-22)

_____ Realm: "in the flesh"

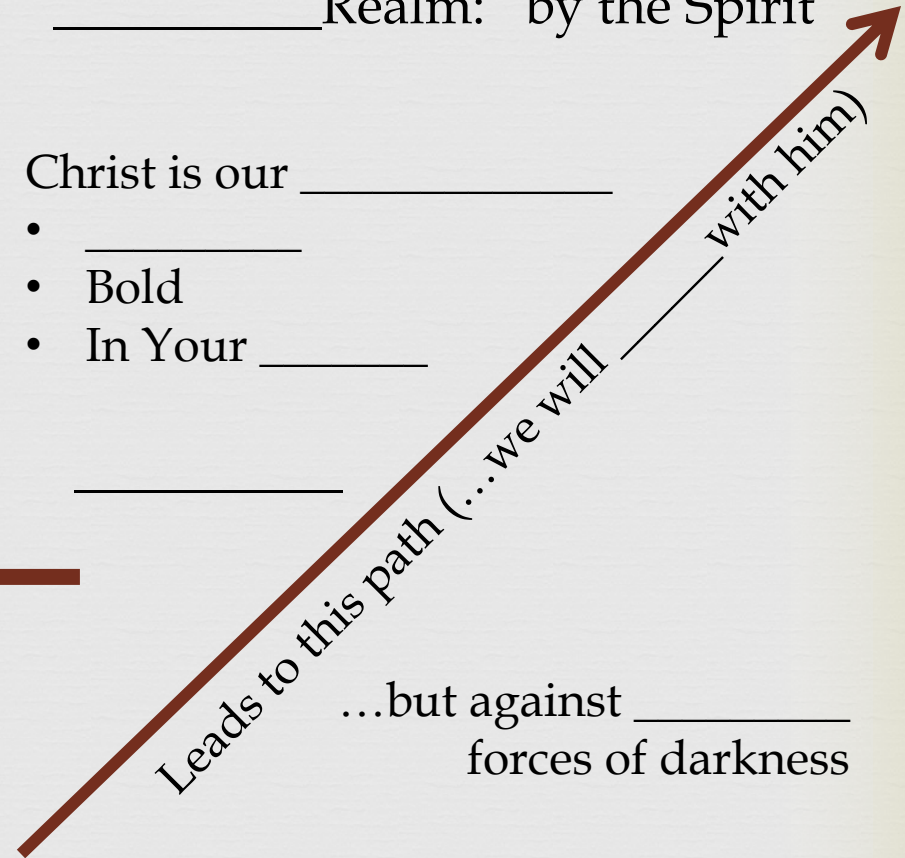
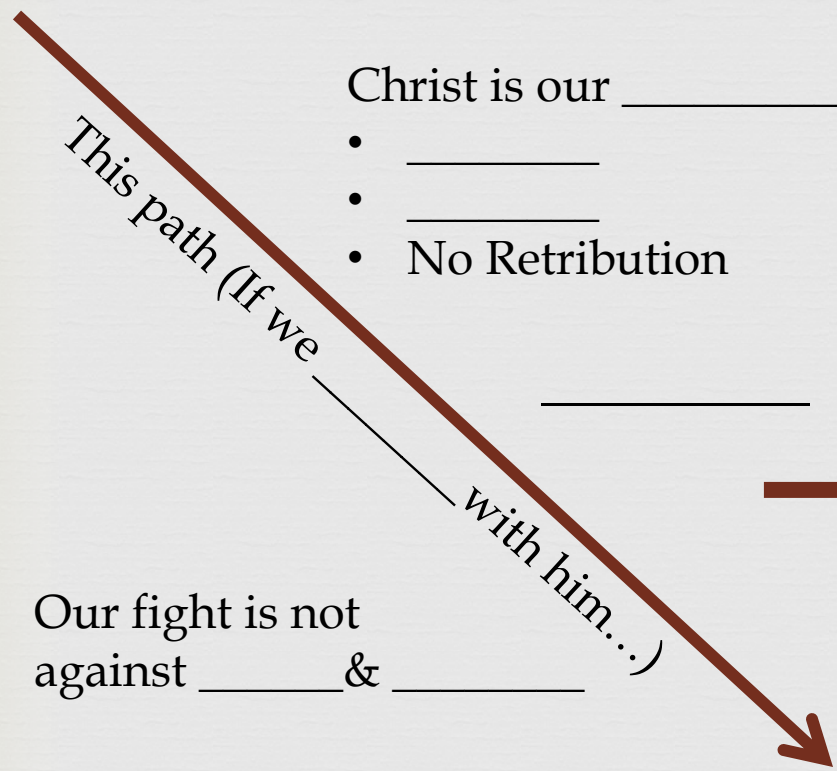
_____ Realm: "by the Spirit"

Christ is our _____

Christ is our _____

- _____
- _____
- No Retribution

- _____
- Bold
- In Your _____



Our fight is not against _____ & _____

...but against _____ forces of darkness

Physical death is not the last _____!