

The Righteous Will Be Delivered

II Peter 2:5-9

Introduction:

- We saw last week the danger of false teachers creeping in
- We also noted how God has promised their doom- with God payday isn't always on Friday!
- Tonight, let's consider the other side- God's promised deliverance for the righteous:

I. The example of Noah- v. 5

- a. God's fierce judgment of the earth in Noah's day- Gen 6:5-7, 11-13
- b. Only Noah and his family found favor in God's sight. They alone found refuge in the ark. Why? Gen 6:8-9, 22, 7:1
- c. Noah is described by Peter as a preacher of righteousness. No doubt, as he spent time hammering away building the ark he also spent time pounding the pulpit and sounding the alarm against the mockers and wicked sinners of his generation.
- d. Noah didn't have many converts, but at least he won his family! -illustr- true success?

II. The example of Lot- v. 6-9

- a. We can trust in God's deliverance of the godly because it is just as certain as His judgment of the ungodly.
- b. God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, while sparing Lot
 - i. They were judged for their sexual perversion. See Romans 1:26-27
 - ii. God did not look upon their behavior as an alternative lifestyle, or as a sickness, but as sin!
 - iii. It is no surprise that this epistle which deals so strongly against apostasy also deals with immorality. False religious teachers are at the front of the

movement to normalize this sin- illustr- mainline liberal Protestant denominations

1. The Episcopal church in the Diocese of Washington, D.C., passed a resolution last week to stop using masculine pronouns for God in future updates to its Book of Common Prayer. The resolution to stop using "gendered language for God" was passed quickly...
 2. Delegates to the Episcopalian convention also passed a resolution without debate or discussion to include "transgender people" in all aspects of "congregational life ." The resolution called on diocese to "encourage all parishes to remove all obstacles to full participation in congregational life by making all gender-specific facilities and activities fully accessible, regardless of gender identity and expression."
- c. V. 9- The Lord knows how: We can take great confidence in this. Many times we do not know how, but the Lord knows how
- d. The unjust have reservation made for them: they are reserved for the day of judgment. But believers have no such reservation. God will deliver us from the very day of judgment, from the very time of wrath that He pours out on the earth (Revelation 3:10).
- i. The Lord knows how- Peter could attest to this- Acts 12:1-3, 21-23 (God wonderfully delivered Peter from prison and He painfully delivered Herod to judgment. God knows how to do both!)
 - ii. "God's man in the center of God's will is immortal until God is finished with him."
 - iii. Ex. David and Saul
- e. Lot's soul was tormented in Sodom and Gomorrah, because he failed to follow through with godly actions and separate himself and his family from their ungodliness. The Lord delivered Lot because of his righteous soul; yet Lot lost everything else because of his too-close association with those wicked cities.

- f. Lot was vexed- to wear down, to exhaust with labor. You could say to torment, or oppress with evil.
 - i. Even as the Lord delivered Lot, He knows how to deliver us from the temptations we face
 - ii. Lot did not gain by choosing to live Sodom, he lost
 - iii. Without Peter's comment, we would think Lot was unsaved! He went and even became an active member in the community and politics, and when we read what happened with his two daughters we see the wickedness affected them as well
 - g. So we must guard ourselves against the sights and sounds of our world today!
 - h. Lot was righteous in God's eyes, though it was hard for others to see his righteousness.
- III. What does it mean to righteous/justified?
- a. God is Holy, and when we see Him as such we understand our wickedness- Isaiah 6
 - b. The standard is God Himself- Romans 3:23
 - c. II Cor 5:21- For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
 - d. Rom. 1:16-17
 - e. We are declared righteous by faith, not our works!- v. 17
 - f. Lot was justified before God because he trusted God as Abraham had done
 - g. Lot's life and testimony denied everything he believed in- and because of that he did not have peace.
 - h. If God justifies a sinner, it does not mean that he finds reasons to prove that he was right - far from it. It does not even mean, at this point, that he makes the sinner a good man. It means that *God treats the sinner as if he had not been a sinner at all.*"
 - i. This Holy Righteous God, chooses by his grace declare us righteous as well. How unworthy are we!

- j. Lot is a not a character we should strive to be, yet we learn a little more about God's grace when we look at his testimony

Conclusion:

- Surprises in heaven- people who we thought would be there won't and vice versa!
- Lot's deliverance prefigures the rapture of the Church before the Great Tribulation
- Before the judgment comes, God will not let His church go through it! Even the weakest saints like Lot will be taken out.
- What is justification? It is the declared purpose of God to regard and treat those sinners who believe in Jesus Christ as if they had not sinned, on the ground of the merits of the Savior. It is not mere pardon. Pardon is a free forgiveness of past offenses. It has reference to those sins as forgiven and blotted out. Justification has respect to the law, and to God's future dealings with the sinner. It is an act by which God determines to treat him hereafter as righteous--as if he had not sinned. The basis for this is the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ, merit that we can plead as if it were our own. He has taken our place and died in our stead; He has met the descending stroke of justice, which would have fallen on our own heads if He had not interposed. - Albert Barnes.
- In light of God's grace, let us strive to be the best Christian God want us to be!