

1 PETER 3:18-20a

A PASSION FOR PEOPLE

¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

Make no mistake about it; Jesus' Passion was for people. Jesus suffered and died so that people might be reconciled with God and brought eternally into his presence. How do we know this? Because after he died, God raised him from the dead – made him alive and sent him to judge fallen angels and fallen men through the revelation of the truth.

As Jesus' disciples, we are called to share his passion for people. Of course our passion is not his Passion, just as we are not him. Jesus died once for all and he was truly righteous – the perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world. He was without sin, and therefore, did not need to die to sin. We are sinners and must daily die to sin and self. We share in Christ's passion for people through this dying to self and living for Christ. Although the vehicle of our passion is different, the destination is the same – to bring people to God. Our passion is to point people to Jesus so he can reconcile them to God.

Dear God, place in me a passion for bringing people to Jesus, so that they might come to a saving knowledge of you. Amen.