

A large, textured red cross is centered on a dark, slightly mottled background. The cross has a rough, hand-painted appearance with some darker red areas at the edges. Overlaid on the cross is the text "ONCE & FOR ALL." in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

ONCE & FOR ALL.

1 PETER 3:18-22

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1⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

1⁹ by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

ONCE & FOR ALL.

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²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

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21 There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

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²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

1. His death (v.18)

Christ died **once** for sins.

- ἄπαξ *hápax*; *Hápax* in this sense means that this was the first and last time that Christ's offering was made, and it was made for the once-and-for-all removal of sin.

Once and for all. The just and unjust.

1. His death (v.18)

- It was for the (our) sins of man that He died.
- This means His (one-time) death is sufficient and complete.
- Once we commit to Christ, this sufficiency/completeness is transmitted to us.

2. His declaration (vs.19–20)

- He proclaimed the victory of His death and resurrection.
- Does this mean that Christ gave them a second chance to be saved? No!
- It means that Jesus Christ went before them and *proclaimed His triumph*; He went to *vindicate the way of faith*.
- *Salvation*—only one way to Heaven.

3. His resurrection (v.21)

- **Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.**
- **Jesus Christ was put to death in the flesh, but He was raised and made alive.**
- **Jesus Christ was transferred into heaven, into the spiritual and perfect world or dimension where He lives, in the glory and majesty of God forever.**

3. His resurrection (v.21)

- **Jesus Christ saves the believer through baptism: not the baptism by water, but the baptism of a good conscience wrought by the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ .**
- **Thus baptism becomes the symbol of His resurrection and our submission to Christ's power and completeness.**

4. His exaltation (v. 22)

- **At this very moment Christ occupies an exalted position of royal dignity and authority alongside God the Father.**
- **The theme here is vindication.**
- **All created spiritual authorities and powers are subject to Christ.**
- **He is worthy to be praised.**

ONCE & FOR ALL.

1 PETER 3:18-22

His death never has to be repeated;
His death upon the cross satisfies
God completely and covers the sins
and death of men forever.

**All we have to do is to accept.
Eternity will be secure.**