



FORGED IN THE FURNACE

To This You Were Called (1 Peter 3:8-22) Caitlyn Schan, Director of Women's Ministries Forged in the Furnace (1 Peter) pt. 7

THE BIG IDEA

Christians are called to have the right posture of humility, be prepared to give an answer for why they are filled with hope even when it doesn't make sense, and to have the right perspective with Christ as Lord.

OPENING

- What comes to mind when you hear the word "submission"?
- Share a situation when doing what was right caused trouble for you.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Bible scholar Edward Clowney says, *"These are not virtues chosen at random. Like the fingers of the hand, they radiate from one center and work together. The key to them all is the love of grace: they reflect the grace, love and compassion of Jesus Christ."*¹ How do the virtues of vv. 8 and 9 reflect what you know about Jesus?
- According to 1 Peter 3:15, what is the antidote for fear in a Christian's life? What are some of the things that commonly get in the way of Christ's Lordship in our lives?
- 1 Peter 3:19-22 is one of the most difficult passages in the New Testament to understand. There are three primary ways Christians throughout history have understood this passage:
 1. After his death but before his resurrection, Jesus descended to hell (or the realm of the dead) to preach to those already in judgment.
 2. Before Jesus came to earth (in his pre-incarnate state), Jesus preached judgment to people through Noah.

¹Edward Clowney, *The Message of 1 Peter*. *The Bible Speaks Today* series (InterVarsity, 2007), p. 136.

3. After his resurrection from the dead, Jesus' ascension back to heaven proclaimed his victory over death.²

Regardless of which of these views is correct, the primary point is the same: Christ is Lord over both life and death. How does this reality bring you comfort?

- Caitlyn says, *“Peter knows that during this time, Christians are facing persecution. It may appear that they are being held in submission to hostile powers—but appearances are deceiving. While he has been painting this picture of submission in daily life—he closes this message on submission with a picture of reality—with a perspective on what is really going on in this world. He gives them a peek behind the curtain of sin and suffering in this world—to what is really going on. And that peek behind the curtain shows them this: no matter what it seems—Christ, the resurrected Savior, is seated at the right hand of God and all angels, authorities, and powers are in submission to him.”* How might this bring comfort to Christians who feel like the world around them is out of control?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- How might the reality of Christ's enthronement as Lord impact how you view the circumstances around you that are troubling. Share one of these circumstances with your group or write it in a journal, and then spend the week reminding yourself, “Christ is God's right hand, with all the powers of the universe under his authority.”

PRAYER REQUESTS

²See Karen Jobes, *1 Peter, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament* (Baker Books), p.237 for a summary of the pros and cons of these three views.