

Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

1 Peter 3:13–22

Read 1 Peter 3:13–22. Then focus on verses 13–18a.

1. What kinds of trouble have Peter's readers faced from unbelievers around them? (2:12; 3:9, 16)

2. Despite the fact that "suffer[ing] for what is right" (v. 14) brings pain, Peter states that believers are blessed in the midst of their trials. In what ways are they blessed? (v. 12; 1:6–9; 2:9–10)

3. In verse 14 Peter exhorts his readers, "Do not fear what they fear," or perhaps better, "Do not fear their threats" (NIV footnote). What should they do instead? (v. 15a)

4. Commentator Peter H. Davids writes that setting apart Christ as Lord means "to treat him as holy, to set him apart above all human authority. ...Jesus is to be honored, revered, and obeyed as Lord."¹ Write down some practical ways you can develop this kind of reverence for Jesus.

5. What instruction does Peter give his readers in the second part of verse 15?

6. What is the hope we have? (1:3–5, 13)

7. If a non-believer were to ask you what reason you have for your hope in Jesus, how would you answer? (Remember: He or she may not be familiar with the Bible or common Christian terms.)

8. What is our attitude to be as we defend our hope? (v. 15c)

Why?

¹Peter H. Davids, *The First Epistle of Peter* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1990), 131.

9. What does it mean to have a “clear conscience” (v. 16) as we bear witness to Christ? (2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Jn. 1:6–9; 2:5b–6; * Rom. 2:21–24)
10. To what does Peter connect the believers' suffering? (Note the word “For” at the beginning of verse 18, and look back at 2:21.)

Reread 1 Peter 3:18–22.

11. Verse 18a is jam-packed with details concerning the purpose and significance of Christ’s death. Why are these details very important?
- a. “for sins” (Heb. 10:1–7, 10):
 - b. “once for all” (Heb. 9:24–28):
 - c. “the righteous for the unrighteous” (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26–27):
 - d. “to bring you to God” (Eph. 2:11–13):
12. One common interpretation of verses 19 and 20 is that after his resurrection, Jesus proclaimed to evil spirits who had been on earth before the flood that he had risen victorious and that they were condemned to punishment (*Compare v. 22 and Col. 2:15.).
What is one thing such a victory means for those who are in Christ? (Rom. 8:38–39)
13. Like Peter's readers, Noah sought to live a righteous life in the midst of a wicked generation. Why would this reminder of Noah be encouraging to the believers to whom Peter is writing? (vv. 20b–21; 2 Pet. 2:5, 9; * Gen. 7:1, 7, 23)
14. Peter states that the water of the flood, through which God safely delivered Noah and his family, symbolizes Christian baptism. What does baptism itself signify? (Rom. 6:3–5)
15. Earlier Peter exhorted his readers not to fear the sometimes hostile unbelievers surrounding them. In the second half of this week’s passage, Peter mentions Jesus’ resurrection twice (vv. 18b, 21b) and then his exaltation to God’s right hand, a position of unmatched power and authority (v. 22). How do you think this emphasis on Christ’s victory over death and evil would have helped Peter’s readers not to fear?

How can keeping Christ’s victory at the forefront of your own mind help you cope with whatever fear you are facing right now?