

Small Group Outline for week of February 8, 2021
The Authority of Christ – 1 Peter 3:18-22

Main Text: 1 Peter 3:18-22

The Apostle Peter is encouraging the Church with this important truth, by extension to you and me; Jesus Christ died for us. Why is that such a big deal? There is an eternity after we die. What we experience on earth, the Apostle Paul calls, are momentary troubles, but what we experience after we die is forever. Our Heavenly Father cares about what happens with us on earth, He really does. But we need to keep our perspective on the line of eternity and not the dot of present time.

Let's look again at what the Apostle Paul's friend, the Apostle Peter, writes about Jesus Christ his Lord and Savior. The truth and authority of Jesus Christ affects all of our lives. Follow with me:

Read Verse 18

- Have you believed and trusted that Jesus died for you? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins? Have you thanked Him for paying for your death for your sins? Have you entrusted and given your life in return for the forgiveness and payment of your sin?
- Share how you became a Christian; how you came to put your faith in Jesus. I know I've asked you to share this before, we can't share our testimony too many times.

Read 1 Peter 3:19-20a (we will not get into Noah and baptism)

- Hades (Sheol in OT) was the place of the dead, the grave for both the lost and blessed, the unrighteous and righteous, before the Ascension of Christ. Many theologians believe that the ones who held faith in God were then brought to paradise. The rebellious were then sent to Gehenna, or to hell. Some theologians believe that many of the fallen angels, demons, were also there.
- Jesus did not go there to preach and invite those there to repent; it was too late for any of those who did not have faith in God. He went to proclaim and prove Who he was and is. He declared with His hands, His feet, and His side, that He is indeed the Risen Christ. He is alive, and He has authority over death and the grave. He is the Christ, the First and Last, the Living One, He is alive forever and ever!
- *The word is not "preach" but rather it is ekēryxen, from kērysson ("proclaim a message," from a king or potentate). All that v. 19 actually says is that Christ made a proclamation to the souls who are now imprisoned in Sheol (hades). (New International Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties)*
- As revealed in **Revelation 1:18**
 - "I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave."
 - This is the time He got hold of the keys of death and the grave. He has the authority over death and hades, and the devil. This is hope for the Christian in persecution and in death and dying. We can trust our death in the hands of Christ.

Read Romans 8:38-39

- Which points grabs your heart? Which one particularly encourages you?

Read 1 Peter 3:22

- He ascended into Heaven
- Christ is seated at the Right Hand of God
- In authority!

If you have time, take turns reading the following verses, as you note the context|:

- Matthew 26:64
- Acts 2:33-34 (Peter preaches)
- Acts 5:31 (Peter declares to temple officials when opposed)
- Acts 7:56 (Stephen exclaimed as he was being martyred)
- Romans 8:34 (Apostle Paul)
- Colossians 3:1 (Apostle Paul)
- Hebrews 1:3
- Hebrews 10:12
- Hebrews 12:2

Summary and Point:

Take very clear note of Jesus Christ's authority over death, the grave, all other authorities...

Philippians 2:9-11

- Therefore, God elevated (exalted) Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names,
 - **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,**
 - **In heaven and**
 - **on earth and**
 - **under the earth,**
 - **and every tongue declare** that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ is worship of all worship; every one of us will bow before Him

Have you bowed your knee before Jesus Christ, lately? Ever? (Invitation)

every one of us will bow the knee willingly or unwillingly

Have you given Him authority over the details of your life and future?

- Over the choices of your life?
- Over your health and death?
- Over the sins and habits of our lives?
- Over the worries and fears and anxieties of your life?
- Over the troubles of your life?
- Over the persecutions of your life?
- Have we given Him authority over His Church?

Share:

- Where are some areas in your life that you need to trust Jesus Authority more? Where do you need to trust that He's got this?

Read the following verses to encourage each other:

- 1 Peter 3:18-20a, 22
- Philippians 2:9-11
- Romans 8:34-39

No weekly reflection this time; but listen to a special worship song and spend time in prayer for each other and also in worship for Who Jesus Christ is and bowing to His authority.