

- ♦ “Bowling down to Satan” includes submitting to his methods!
- Throw yourself down: *freedom from suffering!*

- ii. Jesus, the Rock of offense or the Cornerstone? (1 Pet. 2:7-8)
  - a) Christ and His ways are offensive to anyone standing in unbelief, but transformative for all who stand in faith.
  - b) It is likely that Peter does not address masters because there were none among these churches in Asia minor.

### III. Overcoming Injustice as a Christian Women (Next Week)

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What are some of the “landmines” in 1 Peter 2:18—3:7?
- How do you think Peter’s instructions (2:11—4:11) relate to what precedes it in 2:4-10?
- Why might the English word “subordinate” better communicate the heart of Peter’s instruction in our text, and fit with the rest of the NT?
- Why does Peter tell his audience that they are supposed subordinate themselves even to unjust people in authority?
- How is our text an example of what Paul might have described as “that which is nothing” making nothing out of that which is?
- Why might an over-realized eschatology (*We reign with Jesus now in power!*) require the instructions Peter is giving to slaves and wives?
- How do we know that Peter himself was originally very resistant to the same kind of instruction he is giving?
- The test of Jesus in the wilderness was all about what kind of Son of God he would be. How might those tests raise the question for us as to what kind of children of God will we be, whether we will embrace the ways of Satan or Christ our King?

## Revolutionary Subordination (part 1)

Jerry Cisar — August 22, 2021

Text: 2:18—3:7

### Introduction

#### I. Overcoming Injustice as a Christian Slave (2:18-20)

- A. “Servants, be subject to your masters... *even* to the unjust.”
  - i. Household Codes
  - ii. Peter and Paul didn’t simply *borrow* from Roman household codes; they turned them upside down.
  - iii. What is the command and what is the injustice?
    - a) The Injustice: “Not just the gentle and kind, but also the unjust”
    - b) The command: “Be subordinate to...”
      - To “be subject to another” is to be *under the control of that person*.
      - To “submit” ourselves to another is to yield to the power and authority of another.
      - To subordinate yourself to another is to place oneself in a place of lower rank. (e.g. Phil. 2:3).

*Subordination accepts the current order of things, not as permanent, or even good, but as that which is passing away and a part of the world in which we nonetheless live. These structures are where we are called to value others above ourselves.*

B. "Why?" It brings favor with God!

- i. Vss 19-20 begin and end with almost exactly the same phrase (*this is grace/favor*). v20 has added "with God."

*"For this finds God's favor, if because of conscience toward God someone endures hardships in suffering unjustly.<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if you sin and are mistreated and endure it? But if you do good and suffer and so endure, **this finds favor with God.**" (1 Pet. 2:19-20 NET)*

- ii. God will act on this one's behalf. (Contrast w/ 3:7)
  - a) God is not pleased with the unjust treatment you've received.
  - b) "...if because of conscience toward God..." (19)
  - c) How *does* God transform the world of evil powers?
    - 1 Cor. 1:27-29
    - God overcomes what *is* by what *is not*!
  - d) Subordinating yourself to a harsh master, or a wife to a husband that does obey the Word, is **nothing at all...it has no power!**... which is exactly why it is our calling.
    - Rom. 12:22

## II. How Christ Overcame Injustice (2:21-25)

A. Why are we called to willfully return good for evil when treated unjustly?

- i. "Because to this you were called, because..."

- ii. "...because Christ also suffered for you..."

- a) Christ

- b) "Subordinate yourselves," understood rightly, exalts these slaves to the status of "agent of the King" or maybe better, "royal priesthood."

- iii. Following in Jesus' Footsteps

B. Peter understands perfectly our temptation to react in the flesh rather than to respond in the Messianic way.

- i. Peter himself resisted the idea of going to the cross so strongly that Jesus said, "Get behind me, Satan!".

- a) When we resist God's way of going to the cross, we are embracing Satan's way.

- b) Why did Peter receive the same rebuke as Satan himself?

- The wilderness temptation was a test about *what kind of Son of God, Ruler/King, Jesus would be?*

- Boulders to bread

- ◆ John 6:13-15

- Shortcut to Possessing the World

- ◆ Psalm 2:7-8