**Seeing Christ’s Supremacy in Difficult Texts**

**(1 Peter 3:18-22)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** Verse 18 tells us a lot about Christ’s work on the cross. What is notable about the phrase “once for sins”? How does this compare with the sacrifices made in the Old Testament? How does this verse affirm the doctrine of penal substitutionary atonement (i.e., Christ took the place of his sinful people and endured God’s wrath for them)?

**2.** What does verse 18 reveal about the aim/goal of Christ’s work on the cross? How does this fit with the first question in the Westminster Shorter Catechism (i.e., The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.)?

**3.** How have you previously interpreted verses 19-20? How did today’s study affirm and/or challenge your assumptions? How important is it that we accurately understand what Peter is conveying in these verses?

**4.** What does Peter teach us about baptism in verse 21? In what way(s) does it correspond to Noah’s ark? Does the act of baptism save a person? Why or why not? How do we see Christ’s supremacy and glory in Peter’s analogy?

**5.** Why would verse 22 be encouraging to suffering, persecuted Christians? Compare this verse with the following passages: Romans 8:34-39; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:15-20. What do these passages teach us about spiritual warfare? How do they relate to Peter’s words in 1 Peter 3:22? How would Peter’s words (along with the other passages) encourage and strengthen persecuted believers?

**6.** What do you do when you encounter a difficult passage of Scripture? What role does humility play in biblical study and interpretation? How has/should Luke 24:27, 44 serve as the key to unlocking difficult texts? How do you preach the supremacy of Christ to your own weary heart when suffering and persecution comes? How does the knowledge of Christ’s supremacy over demonic forces practically impact you and your perseverance in faith?