

## Guarded by God and Refined by Trials

1 Peter 1:3-7

Big Idea: God uses the furnace of this life to refine us & help us glorify Jesus in this life and the next.

### 1. Reasons to worship during suffering. Vs. 3-5

- “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...” (Eph. 2:1)
- “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” (John 3:3)
- Living hope “lifts up the soul, keeps the head above water, inspires confidence, and sustains courage.” C.H. Spurgeon
- “Not only is our inheritance kept for us; we are kept for our inheritance. It would be small comfort to know that nothing could destroy our heavenly inheritance if we could lose it at last. The wonder of our hope is that the same *power* of God that keeps our inheritance also keeps us. We are *shielded* until the great day when our salvation will be revealed.” Edmund Clowney

### 2. Refined by trials. Vs. 6-7

- “God sends trials to strengthen our trust in him so that our faith will not fail. Our trials keep us trusting; they burn away our self-confidence and drive us to our Saviour. The fires of affliction or persecution will not reduce our faith to ashes. *Fire* does not destroy gold; it only removes combustible impurities. Yet even gold will at last vanish with the whole of this created order. Faith is infinitely more precious and more enduring.” Edmund Clowney