

"HAPPINESS ON THE HIT LIST"

1 Peter 4:12-14

Main Idea: We can rejoice when we suffer for Jesus' sake because we are sharing in His sufferings and He will richly reward us.

Introduction: Peter comes full circle

Suffering for Jesus is to be expected (v.12)

A specific kind of suffering

Shouldn't be surprised

Jesus was good all the time, and yet...

Goodness magnifies sinfulness, and makes people squirm

Reasons to rejoice (vv.13 - 14)

Sharing in the sufferings of Christ (v.13a)

Radical identification with Christ

How He suffers when we suffer

Anticipating *overflowing* joy (v.13b)

Soaking with His glory (v.14)

Family Life Groups

“Happiness on the Hit List”

1 Peter 4:12-14

Main Idea: We can rejoice when we suffer for Jesus’ sake because we are sharing in His sufferings and He will richly reward us.

Read the Passage and review the main idea of the text.

1. We live in a culture in which if we are ridiculed or persecuted for being a Christian we can take legal measures to stop it (i.e. get restraining order, hire a lawyer, go to court). Is this appropriate? How would this affect a person’s joy for sharing in Christ’s suffering?

2. If joy in the midst of suffering comes from anticipating the “inexpressible and glorious joy” that will be ours when Jesus is revealed, how can we live each day in anticipation of that joy?

3. Has there been a time when you have suffered for Jesus' sake? How did God use that suffering in your life? Are there lasting results?

Questions? Feel free to contact Pastor Stan Myers at stan@ebcsalem.com