

Disciple's Quest

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31



July 18, 2021

1 Peter 4:1 – 11

Instructions for Striving After Holiness, Part 1

Main Idea:

Life in this present fallen world can be difficult for us as disciples of Jesus. The enemy's snares and the hostility of the unbelieving can distract us and impede our pursuit of holiness. But in Christ, we're able to overcome these challenges as we arm ourselves with the necessary perspectives, commitments and priorities for engaging in spiritual combat.

Outline:

To strive after holiness successfully as Christians, we must arm ourselves with:

1. The right mindset – dead to sin and alive in Christ (v.v. 1 -2)
2. The right expectation – persecution (v.v. 3 – 4)
3. The right understanding of God's character (v.v. 5 – 6)
4. The right anticipation – Jesus coming again (v.v. 7)
5. The right attitude – love (v.v. 8 -9)
6. The right commitment – faithful service (v.v. 10 – 11)

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 According to the message, why was Christianity unpopular in the Roman Empire?

What challenges did that present for the believers to whom Peter wrote?

#2 Do you expect the persecution of faithful Christians and churches to increase in America in the coming years? Why or why not?

#3 Trials, persecution and suffering are to be expected by believers in this present life. What meditation soothes us during times of hardship (1 Peter 1:3-4)?

What perspective encourages us to persevere now (James 1:2 -3)?

#4 What does it mean to strive after holiness?

#5 What is the particular mindset Peter prescribes for that pursuit?

How does Paul summarize it in Romans 6:11?

How does that mindset empower our pursuit?