



Joyful Living in an Unfair World

1 Peter 3:8-12

Study Guide

- 1. The words “to sum up” meet us as we enter this passage. They could mean that Peter is giving a summary of the themes he has been developing or the meaning could be “finally” introducing a new section. What do you think? What were the circumstances of Peter’s readers (1:6; 2:12, 15, 19)? True Christianity will always face a hostile response in this world. Why do you think this is so? Have you encountered any critical responses to your Christianity? How? What is an effective way to answer our critics?**
- 2. You will notice that Peter quotes from Psalm 34:12-16 in 3:10-12. It has been pointed that Peter has built his thoughts in 3:8-9 on the quote from Psalm 34. Can you make the connections between the Psalm 34 quote and verses 8-9? Another issue that needs to be decided is whether the blessings have to do with this life or heaven. Is there anything in Psalm 34 that could tip the interpretation in favor of blessings in this life (34:4, 6, 7, 10, 17, 19)? If that is the meaning of blessing, what would be some of the benefits of living life God’s way? Read the following passages from 1 Peter and identify both the right conduct and the resulting blessing in this life (1 Pet.1:8, 9, 17; 2:2, 19-20; 3:1-2, 7; 4:14; 5:7, 9-10).**
- 3. Examine closely the five words Peter uses in verse 8 (harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble). Put in your own words the meaning of each of them. Give an example of what each would look like in a Christian’s life.**
- 4. Use the following questions for some self-examination.**
 - How well do you get along with people? When you have a conflict what usually causes it?**
 - How do you show your sympathy for people you know well who are hurting?**
 - To what degree do you think the people in your church family know that you love them?**
 - Have you been wronged recently? How did you respond?**
- 5. How would you answer Satan’s lie that we miss good things in this life if we follow God? Can you think of some ways in which sin complicates life?**