

Introduction

1. Expect Ridicule without . . Surprise. 4:12-14

Do you know when we seek to allow the Lord to live His life in us it shows? People who know He makes a difference can see it in anyone who seeks to exalt Christ in their life. Of course we know it is the Holy Spirit at work in us and through us. The text tells us not to be surprised when we get ridiculed for living like a Christian. Because of our attempts to exalt the Lord, people who ridicule Him give something to us, so we should consider it a blessing. Being ridiculed prepares us even more for the Joy of His coming again for us who are His children. The text also tells us if we are ridiculed we know the Spirit of God rests upon us and we can glorify God even more.

2. Expect Ridicule without . . Shame and Represent Jesus Well. 4:15-16

There are ways a Christian should never suffer. Many times we know about people who are sentenced to a time of suffering and we know they are getting what they deserve. If we are suffering because of living like Christ that is not suffering we deserve. Today it is not unusual to see or hear about some Christians having their life taken away because they refuse to deny Christ or to blaspheme Him and His name. We are pleased that is not an active way of punishing people in the United States today. If we suffer for our Christian testimony we should not be ashamed but glorify The Lord and Savior.

3. Expect Ridicule Even . . Suffering According to God's Will. 4:17-19

In writing this letter Simon under the inspiration and leadership tells it is time for the judgement of the Lord to begin at the household of God. He said that 2000 years ago how much more is that true today? Also he said “. . . if the righteous are saved with difficulty what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” That is certainly a good question. We will have difficulty in our life. We do not have the difficulty that the Christian in other nations experience but it is getting worse in this country and may very well increase. I definitely think it will be worse for my grandchildren. If we suffer for being a Christian we are told to entrust your self to a faithful Creator. So *When Ridiculed* give glory to God! Amen? Amen!