

Rejoice, Though Now You are in Heaviness

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Peter 1.

B. The Christians to whom Peter wrote looked toward a better state.

II. Some Christians over-emphasize the now—we are not perfect. Perfection and completeness is reserved for the time when Christ returns. (I John 3:2)

A. The state of completeness we await for affects the man but also nature.

B. Mankind is so related to the earth that the earth and nature will share in the glorification of man.

C. Society will also be restored.

III. The note of rejoicing is clear throughout the entire New Testament.

A. Joyous expectation is the spirit of the Bible.

B. Believers look forward to something that is coming.

IV. We rejoice though pained and in trouble.

A. The true Christian is dead although he lives; he saves his life by losing it, etc.

B. When the Christian wants to win, he always surrenders.

C. The Christian is strongest when he is weakest and weakest when he is strongest.

D. The true Christian is saved now but saved later.

E. He lives on earth but is seated in the heavenly places.

F. He fears God yet is not afraid of Him at all.

G. The true Christian is an enigma.

H. Denominational life means nothing, but the Spirit means everything.

Application questions:

1. How should Christians view the present in light of what is to come?

2. Why is it important that the earth will be restored when man is finally redeemed?

3. Which Christian “enigma” stands out to you? What strikes you?
