

13 July 2014: Preached by Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Topic: **Why Bad Things Happen to Christians?**

Scripture Text: 1 Peter 4:12-14

1. The Epistle of Peter was addressed to Christians who were scattered abroad due to persecutions for their faith in Christ. They face the fiery trials in their lives with such seemingly “bad things” happening to them. The Bible in 1 Peter 4:12-14 gave us 3 reasons why bad things happen to Christians.

2. The first reason is because we are Christians. We are the light and salt of this world. We follow the way of God given to us in His Word, and not after the world. As such, Christians will face the trials from this world. We should not be surprised by it. The Lord Jesus has said it will happen to believers in John 15:20. In 2 Time 3:12, all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions. We ought to thank God for persecutions. In Matt 5:10 we are the blessed ones who suffer for Christ.

3. The second reason is because we are cross-bearer for Christ. We are to deny ourselves, take our cross and follow Christ. To take our cross is to partake of the sufferings of Jesus Christ. To bear the cross means sufferings and shame. We should not expect to be popular with the world. We must be faithful till death for Christ's sake.

4. The third reason is because God wants to glorify Himself in us through our sufferings. We can rejoice in sufferings for Christ because His Name is glorified. When our lives and our lips give glory to Christ in our sufferings, Christ will be glorified.

5. Let us never suffer because of our own sins and foolishness. If we suffer, let it be because of truth, righteousness and Christ's sake.