

Code YELLOW

1 Peter 3:18

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Homeland Security Advisory System 5 Tier Color-coded system
- New norm: Code YELLOW
- Applying the code to persecution of Christians today

Code YELLOW!

A. Sufferings and Christians

1. Chance of suffering is very, very slim.
2. Suffering persecution may be part of God's will for believers.
3. Suffering for what is right results in blessing!—1 Peter 3:14
 - a. "Blessed" can emphasize both the effect and motive.
 - b. Jesus Christ promises blessing for those who suffer for Him.
 - c. Peter experienced blessing for suffering – Acts 5:41-42
 - d. Christian church holds those who suffer in high regard
4. The need to be prepared for suffering

B. Suffering and Peter—Acts 4:19-20

1. Imprisoned at least twice for his faith
2. Ordered not to preach, but continued to do so
3. Greatest weakness—folding under pressure

C. Suffering and Christ—the perfect example of one who unjustly suffered and achieved a greater good.—1 Pet. 3:18

1. Identification of the "just" and the "unjust"
 - a. Jesus Christ as the "righteous One"—1 Pet 2:21-24; Heb. 4:15
 - b. The rest of mankind as the "unjust"—Romans 3:9-12, 23
2. *"Christ also suffered once for sins"*
 - a. Jesus Christ died for OUR sins, not His. Isaiah 53; Rom. 5
 - b. Jesus Christ is the "propitiation" for our sins—1 John 2:2
 - c. Therefore Jesus only had to suffer ONCE.
 - 1) Hebrews 10:1-4, 12
 - 2) Not crucified again and again—Hebrews 9:24-28a
 - d. The FINISHED WORK of Christ!!
 - e. The GREAT EXCHANGE—the *"just for the unjust"*
3. Christ *"also suffered... to bring us to God"*
 - a. Sin separates. Severed man's relationship with God
 - b. Jesus reconciles man with God—Romans 5:8-11
 - c. Accomplished through His death and resurrection
 - d. We've been given the ministry of reconciliation—2Cor. 5