

Why? | Part 1

Lesson 7

Romans 5:12; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Galatians 6:7;

Philippians 3:10; Hebrews 12:5-6; 1 Peter 4:12-19

January 7, 2024

Why Did God Let It Happen?

INTRODUCTION

“Why God? Why?!” Most of us grow up believing that if we “live a good life,” things will go well for us. When things don’t go well, we wonder how a loving God can let bad things happen. We believe that “bad things happening to good people” is incompatible with a loving God.

But Jesus never promised that. He promised that if we follow Him, we will suffer, and that makes sense. If the very Son of God was humiliated, scourged, and died a horrific death on the cross, then why would we expect to have a comfortable life when we follow Him? We should be only surprised if there is no suffering.

This week’s scripture describes suffering “according to God’s will”. (1 Peter 4:19) To not obey Jesus to try to avoid suffering would be a sin.

Let’s realize that suffering for the sake of Jesus means that we’re doing something right. Suffering for the purpose of suffering is worthless, but suffering for Jesus means that we are doing His will, and we are exalting Him in glory.

Memory verse: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”—James 1:2-3

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. How did death enter the world? (Romans 5:12)
2. What does a person reap? (Galatians 6:7)
3. What allows a Christian to comfort others?
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
4. Who does the Lord discipline? (Hebrews 12:5-6)
5. How should Christians respond to suffering because of Christ? (1 Peter 4:13, 16)

3. Why should we respond with joy and faithful commitment when we suffer for Jesus?
(1 Peter 4:16, 19)

4. What value is gained when a Christian suffers for Christ? (Galatians 6:7-8; 1 Peter 4:12-19)

