

## ***Suffering has a purpose in Christ***

Be encouraged, the turmoil is a tool in the hands of God.

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

*“My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.”* John 5:17

*He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.*

Eph 1:9-12

We look too much at ourselves and the consequence of life in the world. The solution to our horror is God. Seek first the kingdom of God. Look up to where Christ is seated. If there is any good, look to these things. And see what God has instore for His children when the battle against sin is over.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.*

2 Cor 1:3-5

The horror is to attract us to God's glory in Christ. Cling to Him.

The horror is no accident, our Father may allow it to be the work of Satan, but what the devil means for bad, God is using for His purpose, to bring judgement on sin, as He purges the world from His children to transform them into the image of Christ.

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

Psalms 23

*as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.* 2 Cor 6:10

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Phil 4:6-7

*So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.* Phil 2:12-15

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* Rom 8:28-31

*And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.* Isaiah 42:16

*For His anger is but for a moment, His favour is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.* Psalms 30:5

ABIDE IN HIM