

Why

Why did God allow His Son to suffer? So that the Son would be glorified in Him. And so that people like you and me might be bought into the light of the kingdom of God.

Why does God allow us to suffer? So that we might be glorified in His Son. And so that others might be brought into the light through His work in us. Suffering is the way of heaven, not happiness in the world.

Luke 9:23

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Glorification is greater loving intimacy with God, Father Son and Spirit. This is eternal life.

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

John 17:15-18

"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

***Follow Me"**

1 John 4:16,18-19

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God

abides in him. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.

When I doubted God, He used what was corruptible and fleshly in me, to disturb me enough in the world so that I changed my mind and ran back to Him.

That's why

Romans 8:17

And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Abide in Him

If we are offering peace and happiness in the world, we are not calling people to take up their cross to follow Christ.

Matthew 10:34-38

"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

The life of the Christian is to embrace the suffering of the cross in learning to follow Christ, obeying all He has commanded His disciples to believe and obey. Nothing less will be accepted.

Without abiding with Christ and sharing in His cross in order to be glorified in His love, there is no peace on earth. Those who are chosen

by the Father and given to the Son are blessed to carry a cross as the evidence of God's love.

The world wants peace without a cross, and a Saviour without suffering. What do you tell them? The world wants God's grace and forgiveness without counting the cost of following Christ. This is salvation without repentance, and life without obedience.

What do you tell them?

Speaking His truth is to invite suffering.

Matthew 5:11-12

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

That's why many offer cheap grace without cost of self denial and a cross. They are afraid of offending the world and being rejected by sinners in fear of not being accepted.

Abide in Him, follow Him