

SUFFERING AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD
SESSION 2 – JUNE 10, 2018
JOHN PIPER VIDEO SERIES

Introduction

John Piper has tried to express with a finite mind and finite words why God and Jesus Christ are worthy of our praise. He boiled it down this... "The ultimate purpose of the universe is to display the greatness of the glory of the grace of God. The highest, clearest, surest display of that glory is in the suffering of the best Person in the universe for millions of undeserving sinners. Therefore, the ultimate reason that suffering exists in the universe is so that Christ might display the greatness of the glory of the grace of God by suffering Himself to overcome our suffering and bring about the praise of the glory of the grace of God."

The glory of the grace of God achieved by Christ's suffering includes...

1. Christ absorbed the wrath of God on our behalf.
The wrath of God that should have caused our eternal suffering fell on Christ. Gal 3:13
2. Christ bore our sins and purchased our forgiveness.
The sins that should have crushed us under the weight of guilt were transferred to Christ. 1 Pet 2:24; Is 53:5
3. Christ provided a perfect righteousness for us that becomes ours in Him.
The obedience of Christ by which we would be counted righteous had to be an obedience unto death. Phil 2:7-8; Rom 5:19
4. Christ defeated death.
The victory we could have over death could only be won through the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Heb 2:14-15; 1 Cor 15:55-57
5. Christ disarmed Satan.
Our record of lawlessness could only be cancelled by nailing it to the cross of Christ. Col 2:14-15
6. Christ purchased perfect and final healing for all His people.
The Lamb was slain, slaughtered, and then raised from the dead so that He and the Father would wipe away every tear from our eyes. Is 53:5; Rev 7:17
7. Christ will bring us finally to God.
The ultimate achievement of the cross is not freedom from suffering, but fellowship with God. 1 Pet 3:18

Suffering—God's sovereign means for our good and His glory!

"Whether we are able or disabled, enduring loss or delighting in friends, suffering in pain or savoring pleasure, all of us who believe in Christ are immeasurably rich in Him and have so much to live for. Don't waste your life. Savor the riches that you have in Christ and spend yourself, no matter the cost. Spread your riches to this desperate world." --John Piper