*God’s Heaven-Sent Promises in the Midst of Our Earth-bound Pain*

“Everybody hurts. Sometimes.” That is the truth of this sin-filled life. We are not alone, though. While grief may be a companion in this life, Christ is still the treasure of our hearts.

WHY?

In this life, we are often left with little explanation as to why things happen. Today, we will meditate on the peace of God that is ours in Christ Jesus amid the frustration of unanswered questions. We will see that Christ is the answer to even our “whys” of life.

**Focus Verse**

**For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.**

 **Psalm 62:1**

It’s a familiar question, even a famous one. Often quoted by kids and notoriously troubling to parents, it’s the question: ‘Why?’ As we begin this study, stop and discuss some situations when this question might arise. Discuss also why answers to the ‘why?’ question don’t always satisfy.

Discuss times when you may have asked God “Why?”

Consider this: Grief veils our vision.

**Scripture Discussion and Reflection**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-58**

 *51Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- 52in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ. 58Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the LORD, because you know that your labor in the LORD is not in vain.*

How does holding on to the hope of the resurrection victory we have in Christ Jesus offer answers to our “why” questions?

**Job 19:23-26**

*23"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, 24that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! 25I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. 26And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;*

What are some significant points about Job’s confession?

How can a promised, yet-to-be-revealed, Savior serve as a comfort to Job in the midst of his current, real and pain suffering – loss of family, finances, and even physical health?

Do you think that if God answered all our “why?” questions would help us in our grieving?

**Revelation 21:3-5**

 *3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." 5He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

What are the promises in Revelation that our fallen flesh can cling to when we’re facing uncertainty, illness, and even death?

**John 11:21**

*"LORD," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.*

Taking Revelation 21 into account, what does Martha confess but fail to recognize?

**John 11:37**

*But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"*

**John 11:40-42**

*40Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."*

Suffering, pain, and death cause confusion and also causes us to ask questions. What was the “why?” question some people asked? What was Jesus’ response?

**John 11:4**

*When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."*

Why did Christ allow Lazarus to die?

**John 11:35-38**

*When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34“Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35Jesus wept. 36Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”38Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39“Take away the stone,” he said.*

According to John’s Gospel, how many times did Jesus become overwhelmed and weep?

At what points in the narrative, did Jesus become emotional?

Why did he weep?

**AN ANSWER TO HELP US UNDERSTAND “WHY?”**

1. All suffering is because of sin, not just ours, but in general.
2. We have Christ.
3. We trust our Lord’s promises.

**John 11:44**

*44The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*

Why is Jesus’ response when he called out Lazarus, the best answer to all our “whys?”