

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Pastor Jimmy Phillips

FAQ (Frequently Avoided Questions)



*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

**1 Peter 3:15**

**John 11:1-41**

- How can a **GOOD** God **ALLOW** suffering?

*“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

**John 20.31**

- Suffering is **EVIDENCE** for God, not **AGAINST** God.
  - **The Argument Goes Like this**
    1. If the Christian God is all-powerful and all loving, he could stop suffering.
    2. If God were all loving, he would stop suffering.
    3. But yet...suffering still exists. Why?
    4. Therefore, the Christian God must not exist.
- Your **SUFFERING** does not mean Jesus doesn't **LOVE** you
  - You'll either judge Jesus' love through the filter of your **CIRCUMSTANCES**, or you'll judge your circumstances through the filter of Jesus' **LOVE**.

- For those in **CHRIST**, suffering does not **END** in death

*Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death.”*

**John 11:4**

*Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

**John 11:25-26**

- For those in Christ, suffering is a part of the **BEAUTIFUL** story  
God is telling **IN** and **THROUGH** you

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord*

**Romans 8:31-39**