

We are not so different from the people who went before us. A man born blind, "why this Lord"? We've the best medical technology available; when we hear the word -pandemic, disease "Why are you letting this happen Lord?" Same question in the Gospel asked about a man born blind.

"What did I do to deserve this?" "Who sinned? Why me?" That somebody sinned is a safe enough answer. Though we know we've all sinned, fallen short of the glory of God, we still wonder if you can tie the ills of life to a specific wrong; blame on it on something or someone.

A great religion in our society, influences even us is -Progressiveness. Even Christians have come to regard the ills of this world as the greatest problems we face. We're tempted to believe everything that is wrong can be fixed with the right policy, the right laws and plans, more money, more medicine, more technology, more resources. -Not that it's wrong to progress, help eliminate suffering and disease, but the real problem is sin. It's a broken creation that we can't cure sin or fix it; anymore than we can save a planet.

That the works of God might be displayed, Jesus is breaking through in His creation to restore it. As He worked the dirt, mud in Garden and with His hands formed Adam, Eve. Note the sight words, in Genesis, **God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the SIGHT and good for food... when the women SAW the tree was good for food, it was a delight to the EYES,** they ate it **then the EYE of both were opened.** Blindness cured is the sign of the Christ from the Old Testament. Even the Pharisee knew this. No one has ever been cured of blindness until now. To address the curse of sin from the Garden. He works in mud again and waters to heal. That all may truly see in Him, the Christ.

Not even in the Garden of Eden was suffering meant for our punishment. God cursed the ground allowing thorns, thistles to grow, making it difficult for man to provide for his family, to keep us humble; to keep us looking to God alone for life, for every good thing. God did not multiply pain in childbirth because He was upset at Eve and wanted all women to suffer as a result. It was to be a painful reminder how God works, brings good out of bad; even the promised Christ to come in the flesh, see in His cross, blessing comes from hurt, new life from pain.

Do not judge the Lord by what you see, feel and experience. Do not evaluate the one true God, His attitude toward you on the basis of what you perceive in your life and see in the world around you.

For judgment, I came into the world that those who do not see may see. He came to be judged in your place. Given your punishment, suffers hell's fury that you be forgiven, that you will not be punished for your sins.

Many are blind, refuse to see His kingdom. Many don't see well, they think His Word, His Sacraments, the means He chooses, are not enough for our lives and His Church. Jesus still heals by means of water, bread, wine, with His Word, always powerful, always does what He says it does. **That the works of God might be in you.** Every Sunday here people are healed, sinners forgiven; the sick see the Great Physician, for this is why He came.

You may not know the "whys" in your life, but it is not to such knowledge that you cling. **But to His promise, the works of God in you.**

Some suffer more than others for reasons God alone knows; but no one has it easy, more than that, we have a Savior who suffered for us. **That the works of God might be displayed in you,** as it was also for the blind man.

To answer life's questions, impossible without a suffering savior, His eternal kingdom. You look to the eternal, rather than the temporal to see. If there's no eternal perspective, no Christ, how meaningless all of life becomes. But only we can answer the 'whys' to life. Only be answered in the Christ. You see it in Scripture also here too, Why? **That the works of God may be displayed.**

The works of Him, the Father who sent Me. Why does God allow suffering, why disease, why evil. Why does God allow so much wrong to happen, why these days? Simply, that God can work a greater good for you, His people. That's the answer to every why. **That the works of God displayed.** Why bad things? He always works a greater good, to draw you, others closer to Him, to show you more of His works and love. Always. The hard work believing it. Trusting in His good and gracious will, regardless of your lot in life.

One of the theological principles of stained glass. No light, no beauty. Even daytime, look from outside the church, there's no beauty to behold, You must 'in' the church to see true beauty, with creational light.. The same for all life and works of His kingdom. In the church, in Christ, we see things differently in the world. To see by faith, answers to life's questions. **That the works of God might be displayed.**

The Lord has order our humanity in 3 estates, the church, the family and the state. The major job of the state is not to let us get killed. So with the pandemic, the state should naturally go into freak-out mode because they are basically trying to keep us alive, but foremost we live in the church and the church's job is to prepare us, get us ready to die. Now, you may not get the coronavirus, but you are going to die. You need -to die well. In fact, Jesus defeats all the enemies- sin, the devil and death. And set us free from the fear of death. Why Paul can say, for to live is Christ and die is gain. So if you hear a Christian get coronavirus your response is God have mercy and even, God be praised for His work. In fact, because of what Jesus has done for you

on the cross- the good things, the bad things, sickness and health, life and death- all of it is blessing. Because you are baptized, in Christ. He has promised to use it for good. Of course we do not desire harm to another and pray we be spared from danger, as God alone holds all life.

So even death comes to the Christian, the one whose sin is forgiveness, death comes as a gift, as sleep, as gain, as departing in peace, as opening our eyes to the face of Jesus and embracing our loved ones. The Psalmist wrote, **blessed are the death of His saints**. So we're always ready to trust in the Lord, in all sickness. Ready to serve neighbor. And let the rest of the world buy toilet paper and panic. They see a virus and it threatens to take everything from them, they have no hope, threatens to destroy them and all they have. Let the world panic. To live is Christ and die is gain. Pray the government will protect our lives, and God be praised we have the Gospel, the certainty, the very promises of God that prepares you to die well, which means He works in you to live well, the baptized child He made you. And to us, death is no death at all. See, **your Lord told you whoever lives and believes in me will never die**. Pray for Vicar and me to stay well, but I really think the virus is scared of us.

The truth is no one knows if this gets better or worse or if what comes after it is much worse. Not the wisest doctor and certainly not your friends on the internet. But God knows. He knows what He is doing. He attends to your prayers. You are His. His dear child whom not a hair of your head will perish. And as you cannot even stand on your own, be drawn closer to Him in these times. To live not for yourself, to live with eyes of faith. These days, a call to repentance. And truly 'see' how safe, how protected, how cared for, how dearly loved you are, see it there(pointtocross) Whatever happens to you is but an opportunity, **that the works of God might be shown in you**.