

Jesus spoke these things;
and lifting up His eyes to
heaven, He said, "Father, the
hour has come; glorify Your
Son, that the Son may glorify
You John 17:1

Opening Comments:

1. Not a typical teaching message
2. This will be difficult for me. I think analytical and systematic, taking things to their logical conclusion

Wish I could be like John

My result with cancer vs. others in the congregation

3. John's message on Psalm 130 - out of the depths (from the depths)
4. Discuss verse on TV

I believe the Christian church in America has a screwed up view of suffering/
trials/tribulations

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.
For I consider that the sufferings of
this present time are not worthy to
be compared with the glory that is
to be revealed to us.
Rom 8:17-18

Our sufferings are nothing compared to Christ's or to the glorify to follow
Col 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I
do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is
lacking in Christ's afflictions.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Cancer has been a great blessing to me, I wouldn't trade it for anything!

Why?

- How God found me
- Struggle with Cancer
- What God is teaching me

I will answer the why, but first some info about how God has worked in my life to give some context to my answer.

How God found me

- I was not looking (seeking) for God
- Attended liberal mainline church as youth
- High School - agnostic
- College - evolutionist and atheist
- God showed me His Word could not be written by man while working at Lancaster County Parks
- God revealed His plan of salvation in Romans

Fight with Cancer

- July 2013 starting having blood in urine
- January 2014 diagnosed with bladder cancer
- August 2015 had neobladder surgery
- February 2018 cancer reappeared in liver
- October 2018 had liver surgery
- Presently to the amazement of medical community, I'm tumor free

Disappointment last July when I found out the tumor was shrinking and they might be able to do surgery to remove it.
It has been suggested that this is a selfish view, what about those left behind?
Is God in control or not?
Is God working ALL things together for good or not?
Let's talk about God's amazing plan
Rather than being selfish, it's arrogant to think God needs help
Does God really need me? They need God more than me

Why is cancer a blessing to me?

- God taught me the value and meaning of Christian fellowship and prayer
- God made me think about the true meaning of life:
 - Why was man created?
 - What is man's purpose?
 - What's important in life?
 - What will heaven be like?

Why? - Genesis 2:15, 3:8 - to walk with God in the cool of the day and learn of Him and His creation

Rev 4:11 to worship God and sings His praises

What our purposes? - caretaker of His creation 1:28 and glorify God

Anything that I do that was not done for the glory of God is SIN, Most of what you would call good that I do, is done for the glory of AI

What's important? Futility of human accomplishments came home to me. I got so distracted by things of this world. Being conformed to the image of His son Rom 8:29 - For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

What will heaven be like? - Learning about God and His magnificent creation

IT'S NOT ABOUT ME, IT'S ABOUT GOD!

Why is cancer a blessing to me?

- God is teaching me about man's (my) pride and the battle between the flesh and His Spirit in sanctification.
 - I want to pay for my sins
 - It's God working in me, not me trying to be "good" for God Matt 19:16-17
- God is teaching me more about the huge chasm between Him and man

When I first was diagnosed with cancer I really felt that I deserved it and it would buy me some blessings down the road. I have a very cause-effect / rewards-punishment mentality

I can do no good thing. Only God is capable of doing good

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

Rom 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

Rom 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Example - teaching a lesson and hoping for praise. Why did Paul call himself

chief (first) sinner? I Tim 1:15 - Was it because he wanted to be first among the apostles like when he was a Pharisee (Phil 3:4-6, Gal 1:14)

Why is cancer a blessing to me?

Why?

God is using it to conform me to the image of His Son Rom 8:29

Why is cancer a blessing to me?

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4