

October 4th, Pearls

What do you remember from last Sunday's message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

What was the meaning of the metaphor of the mollusk and pearl used in the message?

What is the evidence that we are wired for heaven?

Answer: When things go wrong we think 'it shouldn't be this way!'. We all have a sense of what should be and we all recognize when things aren't as they should be.

Why do we crave things that aren't good for us?

READ 1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Why shouldn't we be surprised when things happen that 'aren't supposed to happen'?

What can trials do to us?

Why should we rejoice?

READ James 1:2-4

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Why should we count our trials as joy?

How would we even begin to go about doing that?

During trials, should we assume that God is ignoring our prayers and cries for help?

What are some things we could ask God for while we are going through something difficult?

Everyone goes through hardship, but not everyone produces a pearl. How does one produce a pearl?

What does it mean to deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Jesus?