



Shofar Christian Church

Suffering witness

Ross van Niekerk, Shofar Durbanville

Dr. George Malek on Church Unity:

Church unity rooted in our common participation with humanity and God

1. Suffering

2. Sin

3. Death

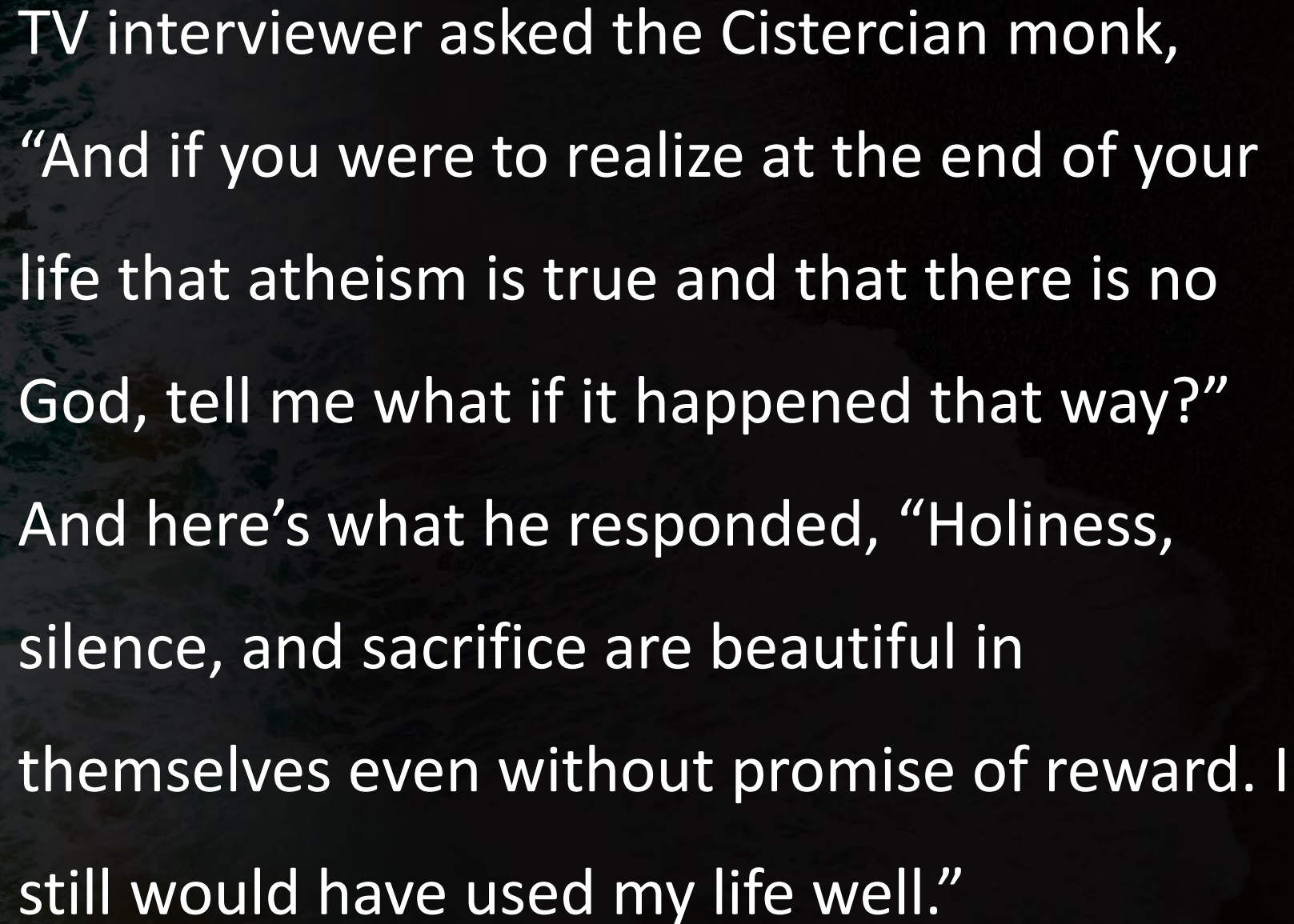
1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that comes upon you to test you as though something strange were happening to you. Rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad at his glory.



2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in
Christ Jesus will be persecuted.



TV interviewer asked the Cistercian monk,
“And if you were to realize at the end of your
life that atheism is true and that there is no
God, tell me what if it happened that way?”
And here’s what he responded, “Holiness,
silence, and sacrifice are beautiful in
themselves even without promise of reward. I
still would have used my life well.”



1 Corinthians 15:9

“If for this life only, we have hope in Christ, we
Christians are of all men most to be pitied.”

America It's about the hardest place in the world. We have convinced ourselves that the psychological, benefits, the relational benefits, the prosperity benefits, the health benefits of believing in Jesus make a pretty good life. So if it proves to be wrong in the end, no big deal, it's been a good life. That's so different from what Paul said, so different.

- John Piper

1 Corinthians 15:9, 32

If this is not going to be followed by resurrection and reward and seeing the Lord Jesus and having everlasting, infinitely growing joy, then let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die.”

“If the dead are not raised, why am I in peril every hour? I protest, brothers, by my exultation which I have in Christ Jesus, our Lord. I die every day.”

Why, Paul?

Colossians 1:24–29

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake.

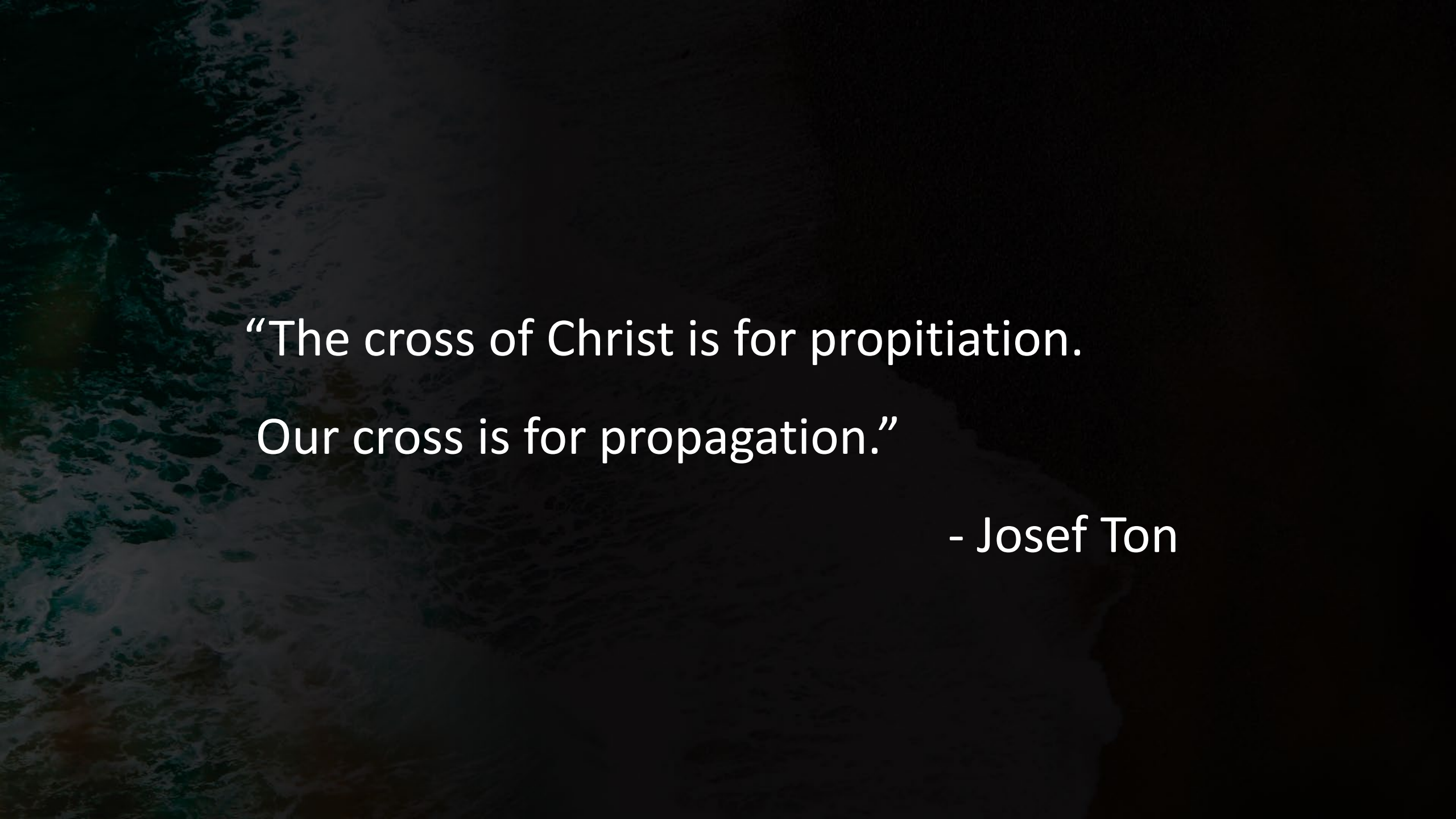
And in my flesh, his body, I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.”

Philippians 2:30

“fill up what is lacking in your service to me.”

What was lacking?

The church's presentation of this offering in person.



“The cross of Christ is for propitiation.
Our cross is for propagation.”

- Josef Ton



Beautiful blistered feet of the Indian messenger



Joseph, the Masai warrior witness

Romans 8:16

The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ provided we suffer with him so that we may be gloried with him. I count the sufferings of this present time unworthy to be compared to the glory that will be revealed.

Our response – “Lift up your eyes!”

1. Encouragement – we are growing somewhere
2. Exhortation – this world is not all

“The cross of Christ is for propitiation.

Our cross is for propagation.”