

# This Is Us

# Breathed Out By God - Part 2

## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Intro: Last week we said....

God's Word Reveals Who God is

God's Word Transforms Us

>God's Word brings....

### 1. STABILITY

Big Idea: When God's Word meditated on and believed, it will bring us stability and strength in life. This strength will then bring influence. Influence will bring success.

#### A. (GOD'S WORD) INFORMS OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

>David is laying out a fact of life for us....  
-We become like who we hang with.

\*(Story of peer pressure.....)

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Proverbs 13:20 Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

#### B. INFORMS OUR THOUGHT LIFE

Psalms 1:2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

>Did you know that we can choose what to think about?  
-It's actually crucial that we direct our thoughts.

Philippians 3:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

\*(I read about a 77 year old man who lived in Florida:

- He had a habit of sleepwalking....and one night he awoke in a muddy pond that was quite a few yards from his house.
- Quite a number of alligators surrounded him....
- Fortunately he sleep walked with his cane ...and so he was doing his best to fend the alligators off.
- A neighbor heard him yelling and called police, who used lights to scare off the gators and free the man.
- The man suffered minor cuts.)

>But here's the deal: If we let our minds wander, they will wander into some dark and murky places.

- The Bible says we should choose to think on certain things.
- Things that are good.....virtuous.....true, etc.

### **C. BRINGS STABILITY**

Psalm 1:3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water....

### **D. MAKES US INFLUENTIAL**

Psalm 1:3..... that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

### **E. MAKES US SUCCESSFUL**

Psalm 1:3 .....In all that he does, he prospers.....

## **2. SPIRITUAL WEALTH**

Big Idea: God's Word is like a treasure house (or bank) that is full precious promises that are ours by right. Because we are in Christ, every spiritual blessing is ours for the taking. Ephesians 1:3 is to the NT Christian what the Promised Land was to OT Israel.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

- >We 'have been blessed'.
- That's spiritual promised land right there.

\*(What did Joshua and the Children encounter in the Promised Land?

- Enemies; walled cities; challenges and trials.
- These were there not to destroy God's people, but to show how great God is.)

>Our trials and challenges are not to destroy us, but to show us how great God is.

- He can be trusted!
- You don't lack anything!
- You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

>This is a stunning truth!

- Note 3 things with me:
  - The source: GOD
  - The scope: ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
  - The sphere: IN HEAVENLY PLACES

>The Christian really operates in two spheres: the earthly and the heavenly, the visible and the invisible.

-Physically, we are on the earth in human bodies, but spiritually we're seated with Christ in the heavenly realm—and it is this heavenly sphere that provides the power and direction for the earthly walk.

\*(The President of the United States is not always seated at his desk in the White House, but that executive chair represents the sphere of his life and power.

- No matter where he is, he is the President, because only he has the privilege of sitting at that desk.
- So too, with the Christian: no matter where we may be on this earth, we are seated in the heavenlies with Jesus Christ, and this is the basis of our life and power.)

>So too, faith enables us to not be so pushed around by our circumstances....and more informed by our position.

- We've been given a position in Christ that remains constant—stable—though our condition of life fluctuates.

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

>That's the key for you and me: Your life—my life is hid with Christ.

- No matter what is happening right now conditionally, I know that positionally my life is hid with Christ.
- Therefore, I don't need to worry about my condition—I need to keep my eyes on my position.
- And when I keep focused on my position in Christ, all of life becomes swallowed up in God's great and glorious purposes.
- Every single thing I go through conditionally in this life is allowed by a Sovereign and loving God—who then causes ALL things to work together for good.

\*(Paul was in prison and people were coming against him:

- Christians were talking about him.
- He was going through intense trials in his life.
- What did he say about it?

Philippians 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.)

>The very things that you are going through conditionally— (financial; relational; emotional; physical)— are all working for good eternally in your life:

- They too, will 'turn to your salvation.....'
- We have God's promise on that.
- That's our wealth.
- And this is just one promise...

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

>Most Christians have taken this verse and diluted its potency by changing it in their hearts and minds to say, 'And we know that most things work together for good....'

- And some go further by changing it to, 'And we know that some things work together for good...'
- But Paul says, 'In the midst of our groaning and suffering as we're being adapted for heaven, know this: ALL THINGS--EVERYTHING is working together for good...'
- Please note that this verse does not say: God causes all things.

\*(Illustration.....It reminds of that famous story that is told of a man in China who raised horses for a living:

- When one of his prized stallions ran away, his friends gathered at his home to mourn his great loss.
- After they had expressed their concern, the man raised this question: "How do I know whether what happened is bad or good?"
- A couple days later the runaway horse returned with several strays following close behind.
- The same acquaintances again came to his house -- this time to celebrate his good fortune.
- "But how do I know whether it's good or bad?" the old gentleman asked them.
- That very afternoon the horse kicked the owner's son and broke the young man's leg.
- Once more the crowd assembled -- now to express their sorrow over the incident.
- "But how do I know if this is bad or good?" the father asked again.
- Well, only a few days later, war broke out.
- The man's son, however, was exempted from the military service because of his broken leg.
- Yes, you guessed it, the friends again gathered to celebrate their good fortune.
- We'll stop the story there.....I think you get the idea.)

>This tale points out that from our limited human perspective, it's impossible to know with certainty how to interpret the experiences of life— unless we have something or Someone that comes from outside of time, that can speak to us authoritatively.

- Someone who can see the end from the beginning.
- And we do!
- That's why '..... we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.....'
- God has told us so.

-God has spoken authoritatively, from outside of the time-space continuum, to let us know, who are limited, that all of it is working out for good—not some—not most— ALL.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

>So 'all things' means 'all things':

-ALL things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose.

-I know it—and so do you.

-If I believe that, it will greatly effect the way I go through life.

-I'll be able to take joy at the difficulty I'm in....

>God's Word makes us incredibly wealthy.....

### **3. GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION**

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.