

This Is Us | Biblical Truth

Text — 2 Timothy 3:1-17

[1] But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. [2] For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, [3] heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, [4] treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, [5] having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. [6] For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, [7] always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. [8] Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. [9] But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

[10] You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, [11] my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. [12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Introduction — In order to really be shaped by the Bible...

- Genesis 1 – Humanity's purpose

Genesis 1:1-2: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

- Not intended to be a thorough examination of creation (Big Bang; evolution)
- Identity: Written to liberated Israelites —> What is God like and what does he require of us?
- Remember: Emancipated Israelite slaves immersed in pagan idolatry...
 - [Marduk photo slide] Snake-dragon
 - [Dagon photo slide] Fish god
 - [Baal photo slide] Bull (sometimes goat)
 - [Ra photo slide] Hawk/Sun enwrapped by snake
 - Note: “Idolatry is the belief that one’s god (or gods) inhabits or is represented by an image such as a statue.”¹
- 1:1-2: Earth without form and void of life (Yahweh only is the Creator)

Genesis 1:26-28: *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

- 1:27-28: God uses humanity to develop the earth (order; cultivation; beauty; care; *common good*)
- SHALOM: Common Jewish greeting; a blessing in which one pronounces wholeness or completeness. It is a universal pronouncement. The whole of scripture envisions the wholeness of every realm under heaven — politically in

¹ http://www.academia.edu/4051333/Idols_and_Idolatry_in_the_Ancient_Near_East

which peace and a passion for the common good replaces war and corruption, socially in love replacing strife. Shalom applies to every physical condition, it applies to morality, it applies to economic justice, it applies to the application of extreme compassion. The divine mandate to humanity to cultivate the earth has all this in mind. It is a call to live shalom.

- As image-bearers of God, we are called to bring shalom to our world.
- We are God's idols.
 - We reflect God's creative, orderly, peaceful rule.
 - This is why God commanded that no images be made of him.
- Genesis 2 – God's Orders and Provision
 - Eat of any tree except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil
 - God determines what is good, evil, wise, foolish, pure, impure
- Genesis 3 – Humanity's fall
 - But Adam and Eve sinned – they chose to trust their own intuition of what was good or evil
 - This plunged all of humanity into sinful rebellion against God

God's Tarnished Image Needs to be Restored in Us

- New Testament
 - Colossians 3:9-10: *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices [10] and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*
 - Romans 8:28-29: *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

- Assumption: All believers are given the Holy Spirit who reforms us into God's image-bearers.

- How does the Spirit primarily shape us?

[16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- God's breath
 - John 20:22 — Jesus breathed on his disciples... "receive the Holy Spirit"
 - Acts 2 — A mighty rushing wind filled the room of the disciples
 - Genesis 2:7 — God breathed the breath of life into man's nostrils
- God's breath — Who he is

- The opposite of Shalom...

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- These aren't just "bad behavior," but the opposite of Shalom
- Image-bearers work for the common good...

- Be Active in God's Word

[10] You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, [11] my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

- Follow godly people's: teaching, conduct, aim in life, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions
- "What does Paul explicitly say that he teaches 'everywhere in every church?'"²
 - Jesus' atoning death?
 - Justification by faith?
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit?
 - Future judgment at the feet of Jesus?
 - Answer: Paul teaches his own "ways in Christ...everywhere in every church" (1 Corinthians 4:17)

[12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

- People of The Book
- We must be formed by The Book...our affections, our ideas, our will, our beliefs...
- We must give ourselves to a context in which we are immersed in godly people's lives and are immersed in God's breathed-out word.

² Hood, Jason. Imitating God In Christ. 9.