

THE STAGE WE LIVE ON

Pastor Katy Reeves

Our lives are so much bigger than we comprehend. I want to focus in on the last words that the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:10 to show us the importance of how we live our lives really is.

Ephesians 3:10 Passion Translation

The purpose of this was to unveil before every throne and rank of angelic orders in the heavenly realm God's full and diverse wisdom revealed through the church.

Paul was talking about the great mystery that was hidden in ages past, now revealed to Paul by a direct revelation from Jesus.

- This mystery was God's plan to restore all mankind—Jew and Gentile—back to their original design and position.
- One people from every tribe and tongue.

Paul identifies the primary audience for the demonstration of God's wisdom: every throne and rank of angelic orders in the heavenly realm.

- Paul makes it clear that God's plan is for THE CHURCH to make known His wisdom to the nations and to all men, but the main audience are the rulers and authorities in the spirit world.

What this means is that we are not living on the stage that we think we are—we think we live before men because that is who we see right in front of us.

- Because of this we end up living for the opinions of man and we are shaped by how men react to us.
- In reality, human beings are not the primary audience we live before.
- Our choices, and our lifestyles are all lived out before heavenly rulers and ranks of angelic orders.
- God intends our lives are to demonstrate something to these powers.

When we realize this it gives tremendous dignity to everything we do and gives us great focus to the way we live.

- WE ARE GOD'S MEANS OF INSTRUCTING NOT JUS MEN, BUT HEAVENLY RULERS AND AUTHORITIES.

Our choices are made before an unseen audience.

- When we make decisions to choose righteousness those decisions are a challenge to the powers that influence the world for wickedness.
- Even the smallest actions in agreement with God are significant because they are a direct challenge to the powers of this age.
- When we preach and teach we are not just speaking to men, we are making statements before rulers and authorities.
- We are declaring the truth of God's Word and God's Son and in that declaration, we directly challenge their lies that serve the basis of their influence over the earth.

Mankind was created to take this kind of dominion over the earth.

- Humans were created to govern the earth and that government happens first through words because our words have authority.
- Our intercession is governmental.
- Our worship is governmental.
- Our conversations are governmental.
- Even our 'careless words' are powerful enough that Jesus warns us they will come up at the judgment. (Matthew 12:36)

When we declare the word of God and the truth of Jesus we are confronting the lies propagated by the rulers and authorities.

- We are challenging their dominance over the hearts and minds of mankind.
- Our words and our actions become a direct assault on all that is false.
- Our lives, lived in Truth, challenge, not only humans, but actually heavenly powers.
- When we gather to worship and pray, no matter how small the group, we are making a statement and disrupting the atmosphere.
- Because most of the earth lies under the influence of the powers of darkness (1 John 5:19), when any human being or any group of human beings begin to challenge that darkness it is serious.
- When a person begins to resist sin, even if they struggle with it for a season, the very fact that they are resisting sin is a statement to the rulers.
- It is a rejection of their lies and their leadership.

No matter how small a platform or a voice we may seem to have, God is using US to instruct the powers of this age.

- That is a high calling and a great responsibility.
- Recognizing the magnitude of our calling and our true audience allows us to live free of the pressures and evaluations of other people.
- Even when others reject us, we can live free of their intimidation knowing that we live on a stage much bigger than the stage of human opinion.
- Recognizing the true extent of our influence strengthens us to value that which is small and seems insignificant, because God is using it to make a statement before powers and principalities.
- This gives the smallest things in life incredible significance.

Let that sink in for a moment—Ephesians 3 tells us that we are instructing rulers and authorities; thrones and ranks of angelic orders in the wisdom of God in the way we live our lives.

- Peter tells us that the angels long to look into the mysteries of our salvation. (1 Peter 1:12)
- But the great tragedy is that far too many humans and, even worse, far too many believers do not recognize the stage they are living on.

This is precisely why Jesus says that someone who seems great now will not be great in the age to come and many who do not seem great now will be seen as great in the age to come. (Matthew 9:30; Mark 10:31)

- Greatness is not only defined by how we live on the stage of mankind, although our ministry to people is important.
- But it is not ultimate—we are living before a much greater stage of invisible rulers.
- We are God's statement to that realm.
- Our lives either live in agreement with the evil powers or resist them and in doing so participate in their ultimate demise.

- The age to come will show that many who seemed great before men were insignificant before heavenly rulers and authorities.
- In that same way, many who we judged to be insignificant before men will be shown to have lived powerfully before the heavenly rulers and authorities.

This is a complete reversal of man's fall.

- The rulers and authorities of darkness have conspired to lead men in darkness for thousands of years.
- They have instructed the earth in unrighteousness in a full on assault against God's wisdom and man's ultimate calling.
- With the miracle of the new birth, God is forming a new humanity who will take back their place and instruct the rulers in heavenly places in the wisdom of God.
- The powers have taught the world wickedness—the Church will instruct the powers in righteousness.

The powers and principalities have conspired to destroy God's purpose with mankind, and God will answer that conspiracy with a redeemed and remade humanity.

- The fatal blow was struck when on man defeated sin and death, and the victory is continuing with a redeemed and remade humanity who is faithful and loyal to Jesus.
- This is why Paul says in Ephesians that the church doesn't actually wrestle with flesh and blood.
- We are ultimately in conflict with the powers of darkness.
- Ephesians 6:12 let's read it.

Not only do we live on a different stage than most folks think, we also fight on a different battleground.

- Because we have been seated with Christ in heavenly places, we are seated, from a governmental perspective, OVER the powers and rulers of darkness.
- We must recognize the nature of our conflict.

The dark powers do everything they can through lies and deceit to rob us of our IDENTITY and convince us that they are powerful, and they are the masters of this earth.

- In reality, they are temporary, their power is limited, and we will ultimately inherit the earth with Jesus.
- They wage war by filling our minds with lies and accusations against God and lies and accusations against our identity before God.
- This is the battlefield we stand on.
- The powers of darkness will always attack the believer's perception of who they are before God because, if they can win that battle, they can make them ineffective.
- When we break through in God to recognize our identity it challenges and threatens the powers of darkness.

Revelations 12:11 is the pathway to victory—it should be the way we live our life.

GOD'S WISDOM WILL BE VINDICATED AND DEMONSTRATED THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.

- Live your life understanding the stage you live on is way bigger than you've realized.
- Make sure your decisions impact not only people but instruct the unseen world as well.