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## Revelation

### Chapter 16 - Revealing that Which Angers God

#### The Powers of the Air (vs. 17-21)

**Revelation 16:17-21:** Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

I thought this would be an appropriate Mother's Day message. My dad and I were talking. I don't know if we were talking about the song, but we were talking about Charles Wesley. And of course, many of you know that he had much to do with the Methodist Church. And unfortunately, the Methodist Church has gone awry in many ways. But during the time of Charles Wesley, there was a great revival. And he had really come to the terms of getting serious with his faith. And I really believe that this song that he wrote was kind of as a result of that. I'm not sure exactly, would you say that would be true? So, you could just hear him saying, "No condemnation now I dread," of course, quoting from Romans 8:1, and what a great truth that is, magnificent, that change of a life that perhaps at one point in time was more academic, but he just got serious about the simplicity of what this was all about. And there has to come a time in everybody's life where you go, "This is either true or it's not." I mean, I don't understand why people go to church if they don't believe it's true. Just stay home and you'll have more fun. I mean, you're not going to have fun talking about something you don't believe. But the transition and the

transformation that happens in our lives, when we realize, "Wow, this is real. I mean, Christ not only died for me, but now there's no condemnation in my life and my chains fell off. I'm free and wow, that's an amazing thing. *"Amazing love, how can it be? That Thou, God, would die for me."* It's an amazing thing.

We come to Revelation 16, and yes, it does have pertinence to our life and even in specific to motherhood. So, we're going to be talking about that as we go. As we've been going through Chapter 16, what we've been dealing with is the wrath of God. And it's interesting because in the earlier service, in Micah 7, we were talking about the indignation of God. And what's interesting about that is that the wrath of God is very short, whereas the lovingkindness of God is everlasting. Yet recently, we've been talking about the wrath of God. So, it's amazing how oftentimes these two passages, as we've just been going through the verses and the chapters, have been coming together. And as we were talking about the indignation and the wrath of God, just a reminder that, as John tells us in 1 John, God is love. So, the wrath of God is

the love of God being displayed, and the things that He's producing through His wrath is not only, as Habakkuk would say, that He remembers mercy, but God is producing a better life. And He's bringing salvation through His wrath. That's hard to imagine. But if you can imagine that it was His wrath that crucified His Son to save you, you begin to understand just the amazement of His wrath.

As we've been going through the seven bowls of wrath as we're really coming towards the end of Revelation and we've been walking through this book, and it's been revealing to us many things. One of the things, of course, that it reveals to us is just the convoluted world in which we live in and how distorted it is. And you can just see the breaking of the seals, God revealing all the hateful things that man does. But in the anger of God, we begin to understand what God is angry about. And if you understand what the text is saying, it makes perfect sense. I mean, you should be angry about those kinds of things.

And just to kind of go through the list, and we're not going to go through all the verses, but as it begins in verses 1 and 2, it just really establishes that God is angry over malignant and loathsome things. And to put it just in a nutshell, over awful things that really are born out of insatiable desires of man. Man has these insatiable desires, and how twisted and how distorted. Well, all you have to do is turn on the TV. You can tell that that's where it's going. And I was talking to somebody this morning. Isn't it interesting how man continues to find himself in the same cycle? I mean, the world begins and man soon is at a place where a flood has to come. And then he gets off the boat, and you basically have Noah and his three sons, Ham, Shem, and Jepheth. And you go, "Everything's okay, because they know what it's like to do the right thing." The first thing they start doing is building a tower of Babel. You're going, "What's that about?" And before long, there's Sodom and Gomorrah. And you feel like you just keep going through these cycles. And the point of it is that man left to himself is not going to get better. I know the perception is, "Well, we're just so smart; we're just going to smart ourselves out of bad." No, it's like you

educate a thief, and you just get a smarter thief. And what you begin to see is the heart of man is desperately sick and it's not getting better. And this is why in 2 Timothy, he says things are going to proceed from bad to worse because it's the nature of man to do that. So, what's the solution? Well, the solution is, "Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly." And that's what the large part of the Book of Revelation is. It's us going, "We can hardly wait for You to get here because we can't fix this." And the church was never meant to be an institution to fix the world. The church was meant to be a light set on a hill so that those that are longing to come to salvation could come and to have that truth. And the church gets itself in a lot of trouble when it goes around shaking its finger and trying to correct the world. We weren't called to do that, just to let you know. So, someone's out there sinning; they're sinners. That's what sinners do. That's their job. But it's not our job to correct them. It is our responsibility to proclaim, "There's a way out of this." And we show the Light of Jesus Christ, and we spread that wonderful gospel, but we're not going to fix the world. It's only going to be fixed when Christ comes.

So, as we come through this, we begin to see the wrath of God and what He's angry about. And clearly, it's over awful, insatiable desires. It's over hurtful, selfish, pursuits and He talks about the waters and how man pursues all these things and goes after all these things. And God is angry over hateful, hostile things against His people. I mean, if in fact somebody was hurting your kids, would you be upset? Well, sure. So, yes, God is angry over that. God is angry over defiance that shakes its fist at God and says, "I don't care what You do, I'm not going to do the right thing." That kind of incorrigible attitude. Of course, Proverbs defines that person as a fool, because that's a person that will never learn. It doesn't matter how many times you lock him in a prison; it doesn't matter how many things he has to suffer for his sins; he continues to do the same thing. That makes me angry. It should make you angry. God is angry over a deceptive ego. You know how people say, "Okay, maybe I did something wrong, but it's not my fault." Or in this particular case, "Oh yeah, I sinned, but it's God's fault." And we hear that all the time. But that's just that deceptive ego that just won't accept the fact that you could be wrong. I mean, you admit that

you sinned, apparently. So, who did that? "Well, God did that. My life was so hard, it was so difficult, and I had to do the wrong thing." You didn't have to do the wrong thing. But it's just a mindset of man.

But what's interesting to me is by the time we get down to verses 12 and 16, you have that battle of Armageddon. And once again, I just want to remind you that the battle of Armageddon is not God fighting us. It's us or man fighting God. So, let me just state it this way: Who do you think started the war? Man did. So, if you just read the text, in particular verses 12 through 15, as you go through in verse 16, you begin to realize, "Okay, that's man's anger towards God." And what it's really displaying within the passage is, the world is actually training man to hate God. At first, it's kind of subtle because what he does to begin with is he kind of marginalizes God and says, and kind of laughs it off, "Well, you know, God's not important." But it doesn't stop there. It goes into the realm of hatred and before long, just eradicating anything about God. And you say, "What are they so angry about?" Well, if you understand the passage in verse 13 in

particular, the beast and the false prophet and "*drakōn*"; they have these unclean things coming out of their mouths. And we were talking about how frogs are kind of the poster boys for uncleanness. So, it's one of the reasons why. It doesn't say frogs are actually coming out of their mouths. It says, "like frogs." The point is that a frog will ingest anything. It doesn't matter how gross or how terrible or horrific it is; a frog will just ingest it; oftentimes, swallow it whole without even trying to in any way chew it. So, the picture is that man is so in love with his impurity that it doesn't matter what he puts in his life. And so, the world begins to allure man that way. In other words, it doesn't matter how gross we are, "You can do this. Go ahead and do it, whatever it is." And so, the world is getting to the point where it almost seems like the more impure, the better. I mean, your ratings go up, your audience goes up, and hey, you can do anything you want to do. That immediately calls people. You tell people, "It's all about fun." You kind of have Epicureanism in which people go, "Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die, so it doesn't matter." And they just do whatever they want to do. And it's alluring. The point is that the world is

alluring us to hate purity, to hate God. And so, this is what the battle, strangely enough, of what Armageddon is about. It's literally about bringing in all the nations to battle against God. And this is what's described within the passage. Do you think God is happy about that? No, the anger of God is poured out upon this, and you begin to understand that. But once again, it's man attacking God. Jesus comes in the world, God in the flesh, and He says, "Don't think that I came to condemn the world. I came to save the world." So, what does man do? He crucifies Him. But then God says, "Okay, that's what We planned to do anyway. That was My orchestration. In spite of your evil, I'm going to turn it into good, and I'm going to save you if you'll trust in His salvation for you." So, the wonderful sovereignty of God in all of this; despite what man does, God is rescuing. And even in His anger is saving us in the midst of this. Is God angry over sin? Yes, He crucifies His Son to save you. So, you see that wonderful aspect of His wrath.

As now, we come into verses 17 through 21, the final bowl is being poured out, and in this particular bowl,

what we begin to see is flashes of lightning. Of course, the one thing that I always remember about this one, verse 21, is you've got these huge hailstones that are coming down from the sky. And the text says 100 pounds. We don't know. It could be 55 pounds, could be 66 pounds. A talent in different cultures is weighed in different amounts, but some of your texts actually translate it, and NAS translates, "100 pounds." But anyway, these great hailstones, there's a lot of weight coming down. Actually, I think if it was just a pound, it would do tremendous damage. They say one of the largest hailstones that have fallen from the sky is about a pound. So, if you could just imagine something 100 pounds or somewhere in that, just tremendous damage. As He begins to describe the things that are happening, like in all of these examples, are mountains being moved? Are islands being moved? I don't doubt that they are. But what you need to focus on is what they're referring to as far as the message is concerned. Because once again, the purpose of Revelation is to speak to the church and in particular to prepare them to minister. So, as you begin to see the things that are happening in that final day, you

understand that though the true mountains actually may be moved, the mountains represent something. Though islands may be moved, as he will talk about within the text, verse 20,

(Revelation 16:20) "And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

He's talking about something.

And as you back up and you see the great city, Babylon, He'll describe, if you look with me in verse 19,

(Revelation 16:19) "The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God..."

Now, if you look within the passage, He's actually telling you what Babylon represents. What does it represent?

Well, read it again, verse 19.

"The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell..."

So, what does Babylon represent? Well, sure.

And what He's talking about, "was split into three parts," what He's already done for us, if you back up into Chapter

16 and you look at the mouth of the dragon in particular, verse 13,

(Revelation 16:13) "And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits..."

Well, you have the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. And so, once again, what He's saying is, and we've talked about this last week, so we're not going to go over it too long, but the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the boastful pride of life. And Babylon is split into three parts, but it's alluring in different ways. I mean, one of the ways that the world allures and calls you is to say, "Hey, you can do anything you want to with your flesh." And you go, "Wow, my desire is to go run rampant." And He goes, "Yes, but it's going to destroy you." Another way, you might say, "Well, it's all about entertainment and about the lust of the eyes and about greed and about getting what I want." And He goes, "Yeah, but that's going to destroy you." And another person might say, "Well, yeah, but it's about making me feel good." And we live in a day and age where everybody wants to feel like they're

the hero of the world, so the advertisement will show you in a corner hiding from everybody and say, "You're a hero." And people go, "I'm a hero." So, they actually believe that. But the thought is that "I'm the savior." And there couldn't be anything falser about the false prophet than him injecting in us the thought that we're rescuing people. I mean, Scripture says there's salvation in no other but Christ. I mean, I need to point to Him, not to me. "Not to us, O Lord, not to us," but to You be given the glory. Psalm 49 says that no man can by any means save his brother. His soul is too much. You could never pay for his soul. You cannot redeem him. But you're hearing all these things. So, Babylon is alluring, and God says, "We're going to do away with this because it's destroying lives." And that's what this particular passage is about.

Now, I purposely skipped over the first verse. And the reason why I did that is, the first verse really explains everything in a very simple way. And I want you to understand what is being said within the text.

So, if you look with me in verse 17, it reads this way,

(Revelation 16:17) "Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air..."

So, the indictment is now the air, whereas before the indictment was in the seas, perhaps, in which man was trusting in his ability through exploration to find all sorts of great things. But now, the text is referring to the indictment against the air. Very interesting. So, underline that because this is what we're going to be talking about.

And then it says in the passage,

"... and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done.""

Which means that the final retribution is happening. God is finally dealing with the final thing that is bringing such pain and agony and sorrow and hurt to the world.

If you look in the passage, it says,

(Revelation 16:18) "And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder..."

Actually, you see these peals of thunder all the way through Revelation, and they just get louder. And by the time you come to Revelation 19, you understand what the

peals of thunder are. What are they? They're the saints in heaven crying out, "God reigns!" If you've ever heard massive amounts of people. By the way, that's recorded in Revelation 19, if you think I'm just making that up. But the point is that the saints are rejoicing. And if you've ever been in a crowd and then all of a sudden, it sounds like thunder. Well, if you can imagine myriads upon myriads and angelic beings in the heavens, they begin to declare, "God is sovereign and He reigns!" You can hear the thunders. But the text is now going a step further and saying, not only do the saints doing their praise cause things to rumble, but it causes things to change. And you see these flashes of lightning and power is coming from it. If you look in the passage,

"... and there was a great earthquake..."

The praise to God changes things on earth. And what it's going to reveal is, on that final day, the saints are going to be declaring the great praise, and God's going, "This is what moves Me to work on your behalf." If you're ever feeling like God's not working on your behalf or doing great things around you, I know you're just one voice but

start **praising**. You're going to begin to watch the power of God and how God not only encourages and strengthens you but uses you and subdues evil around you. I was listening to my wife. She was drying her hair this morning, and I'm listening to her singing. I go, "That sounds so nice." It's such a calming effect when somebody's singing hymns and doing things around the house. So, the passage is making reference to that. And if you look, that earthquake was so mighty that it began to have an effect on the earth. And this is the ultimate demise of this force, whatever it is.

Now, once again, the enemy within the text is the air. And so, because of that, I want you to look with me in Ephesians 2. And Scripture has already defined for us what these things resemble. One of the mistakes that you don't want to make is you don't want to read a passage such as this and go, "You know what I think it is?" You just don't want to do that.

So, Ephesians 2, if you look with me, it reads this way within the passage,

(Ephesians 2:1) "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

(Ephesians 2:2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air..."

Okay, there you go. So, what's the indictment against? Well, it's against the prince of the power of the air.

Keep your finger here and just go a couple of pages over in Ephesians 6.

There's a reminder in Ephesians 6:12,

(Ephesians 6:12) "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

It's interesting that it would describe it as such.

If you go back to Ephesians 2, where it says,

(Ephesians 2:2) "In which you formerly walked according to the course of this world..."

Within the text, he's actually telling you what the course of this world is.

And here's the phrase,

"... according to the prince..."

"*Archōn*" is the Greek word that he uses to describe "prince" within the passage; which the main thrust of that is somebody that is wielding influence. So, there is an evil force that is wielding an influence. The question is, what's the influence that he's wielding? In other words, what is he trying to accomplish?

And the answer is, if you look in the passage,

"... according to the prince of the power of the air..."

The word "power" is not "*dynamis*," which is usually a word translated for "power" in the New Testament, but it's "*exousia*". Now, the reason why I make the distinction for you is this, that "*exousia*" emphasizes the freedom to do whatever you want. And this is the interesting point about the evil one that has penetrated the air. You know, one of the statements that's made in Ephesians 4 is, he says, "You know, you've been paying attention to every wind of doctrine." You hear the air blowing? Every wind of doctrine. And the reason why air is such an interesting

description, especially in our day, is because not only in the air we hear in the sound waves of somebody talking to us here, but in the air, there are voices speaking, and we're picking them up with mechanisms. It's an amazing phenomenon that there are all these voices in the air. The perception is that probably most of them are good. No. They're coming from the world. They're not good.

So, the point is, if you look at a passage, according to the influence of the one who is influencing us... To do what? To choose whatever you want to do. The influences want you to do whatever pleases you, whatever you want. And that's what you're hearing. Look, there's control behind the scenes. We know that. There's manipulation. But the voices are saying, "You do whatever you want to do. Don't let anybody tell you what to do. Don't let anybody tell you what to do." You see, the evil forces are trying to get man, because if you look at the passage, watch the contrast within the text,

"... according to the prince of the power of the air..."

Which is basically telling you, "Do whatever you want to do."

"... of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience."

That's the contrast. The contrast is that they're doing whatever they want to and they're disobeying God. You say, "Well, if I can do whatever I want to do, I'll be happier." I've never found it to work out that way. I haven't found anybody that has gone their own way and lived long enough to pay the piper for that and has had a better life. I've always heard regret, "I wish I hadn't done that." And the destruction and the collateral damage that has followed them is horrific. God is rescuing us and He's saving us, but the world is full of voices telling us, "*It's your thing; do what you want to do.*" I'm not going to sing the song, so don't ask me to. But if you go back to Revelation, it is this that He's dealing with.

Look, I'm not going to try to interject to you what I believe everything is about, because it leaves it open, and I'm going to leave it that way. But I can tell you this, that it's making more sense to me seeing the things that I'm seeing happen, because we live in a day and age of

information. And really, all you have to do is... Scripture tells us.

Read with me in 1 John 5.

(1 John 5:18) "We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him."

Now, there are two words that you really need to understand within the text. One is "evil one," and the other is "touch." "Evil" means "*ponēros*," and what it's referring to is anything that is diseasing and decays and degrades. So, there's this force that decays. I mean, do what you want to do, see if decay doesn't set in. And the power of the air and the world that we live in is decaying stuff. I mean, leave your stuff out in the rain long enough and it'll rust and things will break down. But we live in a world of decay. One of the reasons why they put stuff in a bag is because the air decays it. Now, I'm just telling you the way that nature has pointed to this truth. But the point of the matter is that the prince of the power of this air has influenced us, and he's saying, "Do whatever you

want to do," and it's decaying. It's demoralizing our society. It's destroying us. That's what it's doing.

The passage says,

"... but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one..."

The one who brings decay, disease, and degradation can't fasten onto you. That's an interesting phrase because it's basically saying that it can't make you decay. The grace of God, if you receive Christ Jesus, will keep you from degrading. God will preserve you to the end. You're sealed until the day of redemption, which is a wonderful thing.

But if you look in verse 19, it reads this way,

(1 John 5:19) "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of..."

This decay, of this disease, of this degrading. The whole world is in a process of degrading. "Oh, no, we're getting better." You're not getting better. Children are not more respectful of their parents than they were. The world's not becoming a better place. People aren't thinking purer

thoughts. They're not. And it's one of the reasons why Ephesians 5 says, "Look, the days are evil." The days are decaying. The days are degrading. You and I need to live a godly life. So, the point is that we're being influenced.

Now, here again, I don't want to go down this trail too long, but just to inform you in a very interesting way, that you go back to Genesis, and the whole argument in the garden was, "God's depriving you." But the way that he allures man is he says, "If you'll eat this tree, you'll know like God." So, what has been the alluring source of humanity? Knowledge. Information. It's not really wisdom that we're attaining, but what's that phrase, "knowledge is power"? Well, not according to God, because Scripture says, "Professing to be wise, you become fools." So, often times, the more you know, the more arrogant you are. "Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies." So, we're not telling you to be stupid. We're not telling you don't go to school. We're not telling you don't learn. But don't think that knowledge and information is the answer to your problem. And that's what the world is feeding you. And it has with it that connotation, "And by the way,

don't listen to God. Do whatever you want to do because you're smarter than Him." See, that's what the whole world is telling you. "We can figure this out. Whatever the problem is, whatever the issue is, we can fix it." So, if you just indulge me here again, this fills the airwaves. It's in the air. You pick up on it all the time.

I don't know if you know this or not, but from what I understand, there are 2,787 satellites in the air at this point that are functional. 95% of the garbage out there is not functional. So, we're just dealing with 5% of things. They've had stuff fall from the sky before. One of Russia's spy satellites fell in Canada and spread over hundreds of kilometers radioactive material. Could you imagine that stuff falling from the sky? The interesting picture within the passage is that man has always looked to the heavens as a sort of wisdom. From the tower of Babel, they were building up and they were going up to the heavens, saying, "We're going to be smart; we're going to be like gods." So, you start naming the planets, right? Mercury. These are all gods. Did you know that? Jupiter. These are all gods. Of course, you have gods like Venus, because

everybody wants to worship one of those. And you go through this list of planets. Well, what's interesting is Jude makes reference to the fact that man has attached himself, and he uses the description "to false prophets," which he calls "wandering stars." You know the difference between a planet and a star? Planets wander. Stars are fixed. And don't you think it's interesting, they're not as much naming the stars as they're naming the planets that wander. Because man is infatuated with being able to wander wherever you want to wander. And you can dream whatever you want to dream. And you can be whatever you want to be and go after anything, and that whole spirit of freedom. So, we call our spaceships Gemini and Mercury, and Apollo. And "Apollo" means destruction, just to let you know. So, we call them by names, and we look to these satellites. Let me tell you what we look to them for. They're going to protect us. Better than this, they're going to give us information. They're going to bring us security in our life. And I'm not saying that the text actually has the word "satellite" or any of these things in here. All I'm saying is that man looks to the heavens, and he perceives his grandeur and his

greatness. And he declares himself god. And he says, "I'm going to protect." And God says, "That's coming down."

The question within the passage is, what is it that's falling?

If you look in verse 21,

(Revelation 16:21) "And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down..."

It's not specific. And I think it's not specific for a reason. Different sizes are coming down. But the point is that the men begin to blaspheme God. And the question is, why is man so angry? And the answer is that their dreams and their aspirations and the pride of man are falling.

This is why it says in verse 20,

(Revelation 16:20) "And every island fled away..."

Well, "island" was representative of discovering some new territory and claiming it for yourself. And that begins to fall. And every mountain and every strength and every power and the things that were going to bring you height and exaltation, that begins to fall. And everything begins to get moved because of God's judgment upon man. The

fact of the matter is that the world is infiltrated because there's a force behind us.

In John 8, Jesus is talking to these men that have been lying about what their belief is all about. And He says, "Your father's the devil and he's a liar." And then He says this, "And he's the one in charge of the earth." Now, I want you to think through this one, because He goes on and says, "And everything he does is a lie." Now, if he's the prince of the power of the air, what do you think you're listening to? And what do you think man is telling you over the airwaves? Do you know within the next 10 years, just SpaceX alone, hopes to launch 45,000 more satellites. So, the point is that man is going for the sense of, "We're going to protect; we're heading for the stars." It happened at the tower of Babel. Man's always looked to the stars and perceived himself as... I mean, the whole thing of Babylon was they were astrologers. They were looking to the sky and they were believing that it was within their power to change the world. And the great lie of the evil one is that you can fix yourself. Well, I just have one simple question. Why are people still dying? Why do

we still have cemeteries? Why do people still buy life insurance? I don't understand. Who's fixing anything? And why aren't lives changing? Why aren't people happier? Why aren't families coming together? Why are we having all these problems? The answer is somebody's lying to us. And as you come into this, you come into the realization of the truth.

Now, mothers have a part in this. And if you turn with me to 2 Timothy 3, I think one of the most encouraging passages to me, as Paul writes to Timothy; he actually brings up his mother and grandmother. He does this at the beginning of 2 Timothy.

And if you look with me in Chapter 1, he says,

(2 Timothy 1:5) "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well."

Now, you come to Chapter 3. Look how Chapter 3 starts off. What's he talking about? He's talking about eschatology. He's talking about last times. He's talking about hailstone days. He's talking about the final days of

the earth. How does he describe what society looks like? Well, in Revelation, you see the wrath of God, but what does society look like? Read with me.

(2 Timothy 3:1) "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

(2 Timothy 3:2) For men will be lovers of self..."

Okay, so far, we're batting 1,000.

"... lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

(2 Timothy 3:3) unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

(2 Timothy 3:4) treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

(2 Timothy 3:5) holding to a form of godliness..."

You know what the form of godliness is? They worship themselves. We live in a narcissistic world that's in love with itself. We look in the mirror, and we bow down to ourselves. We talk to ourselves in the mirror or on our selfie phones, and we say, "This is what I want, and this is what I'm going to get, and it's all about me, and it's all

about making me happy." I can tell you it's not going to work out well for your kids, and I can tell you it's not going to work out for your relationship.

I was watching... I don't know why I watch these things. It was one of those advertisements. But this one girl was saying, "How wonderful I am," and she was going to dump her boyfriend, and you know, how terrible. And I'm saying, "Wow, this girl is never going to get married." And if she does get married, it's not going to work because it's all about her. And so, you realize that we're producing this kind of society.

So, if you look in the passage, it goes on and it says they're going to take advantage of people. Well, of course they're going to take advantage of people because it's all about them. That's why people are going to be taken advantage of. They're going to come in; they're going to enter into households.

But if you drop on down, Paul doesn't encourage Timothy; he doesn't say, "Cheer up, Timothy, things are going to get better." He actually says the opposite. He says,

"Things are going to get worse. But you have to follow my teaching in the midst of this."

His statement is in verse 12,

(2 Timothy 3:12) "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus..."

Not might be,

"... will be persecuted."

So, if you're doing the right thing and you're persecuted, you're right on target. If you think you're doing the right thing and you're not being persecuted, you're probably not on target. But the world's going to hate you because you're standing in the way. Tell somebody it's a bad thing to be selfish. See if they don't argue with you.

But if you look in the passage,

(2 Timothy 3:13) "But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."

(2 Timothy 3:14) You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of..."

Now, where does he go to?

Watch verse 15,

(2 Timothy 3:15) "and that from childhood..."

Let me tell you something, mothers. You need to protect your kids. If you don't protect them, you don't love them. And if you don't sit down with your kids and give them the only protection that they'll ever have, they're going to die, and they're going to die in their sin. But what you can do for them is this- You can shore them up that in the midst of the most difficult of times, even when the world is going crazy, they're going to be right on track. And Paul writes to Timothy, and he goes, "I know you're going to be right on track. First of all, you persevered in the things that I told you to do, but mostly it was ingrained in you as a child." Now, there's a key point here, mothers, that I want you to hang onto with me just a second, because once again, the air is full of lies. The air is full of lies. What your kids need to hear and see is truth. And there's one thing that will hold them, that will stabilize them, and never allow them to move, and that is the stability of a mother's faith that they see didn't move. They need to see something genuine; they need to see something real,

because all those lies out there; it's a bunch of fakes, come on. We know there's smoke and mirrors in all of it. We know people aren't really that happy over gutter things. They can't be. I've never known people to applaud about a gutter thing. Anyway, so, what we're talking about is real. And it's one thing that the world can't take away from your kids. If you establish something real in their hearts, they're not going to move.

And if you look in the passage, it says in verse 14, read it with me,

(2 Timothy 3:14) "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of..."

The question I want to ask you is, how did Timothy become convinced? And the answer is in Chapter 1.

Read with me in Chapter 1.

Verse 5, it reads this way,

(2 Timothy 1:5) "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well."

The worst thing that a mother could be is insincere, disingenuous about her faith. But a kid can tell if it's real in his mother's life or not. He can tell. It'll bring them back every time. It doesn't matter how crazy the world is. And you know, that's what drew us to Christ, if you think about it. What drew us to Christ is Jesus came on the earth, God in the flesh, and He says, "I love you." We go, "I don't know about that." We see Him on the cross, and as we're spitting on Him and putting nails in His hands and putting a spear in His side, He's saying, "Forgive them." And I go, "I've never seen such truth in all my life." And we're convinced. For the first time we get to see truth. We beheld the glory of God from the Father full of grace and truth. We're inundated with lies, but you can receive truth today.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Father, we come before You today and we give You thanks for rescuing us from this crazy world. What they say doesn't matter. They're just manipulating so that they can have more and using us. God, we need somebody

that cares. And when a mother or a father demonstrates genuine love within a household, the kid is stabilized. But when we see a love that never does fail, we are saved. We are sealed until the day of redemption. The love of Christ constrains us, and we bathe ourselves in the promise that You'll never leave us nor forsake us because we know You don't lie. We understand why You would be upset over the powers of the air because it's nothing but lies. And that's not Who You are at all.

Your head's bowed and your eyes closed. If you haven't received Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, nobody can come to the Father but by Him. You're missing out on what is real. And someday, all those fake things, the fake promises, are going to fall from the sky. Everything that said, "We'll protect you. We'll keep you safe. We'll promise you great prosperity and happiness," are all going to fall down. And man, who has rejected God, will blaspheme God and shake his fist at God, but we who have received Christ will rejoice, for we have anchored our soul in real.