

A Scripted Life
October 22, 2006
2 Tim 3:10-17
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Synopsis:

Life is a story with a plot and characters. Some say we make up our own story. But even the most naïve among us knows that not all stories end well; people destroy themselves and others. Paul urges us in today's passage that Scripture provides the story which gives us God-breathed life. In this life-giving story (the Bible), we are created, sinful, and redeemed through Jesus Christ. Here's the take away before the sermon begins: If we want life in the fullest, we find it when we live the story God provides.

I.

Whose Story Is It Anyway?

3:10 "Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct"

Game Show: What's My Line? vs. Whose Line Is It Anyway?

-Drew Carey

-Gives instructions; people make up situations

-Postmodern life is like this:

Make up a story, put yourself in it, and change if you like.

Trouble is that not all narratives lead the same place.

How can I live a story that produces, (v10)

Wisdom

Good conduct

Purpose

Faithfulness

Patience

Love

Steadfastness

Listen up and I will tell you.

II.

We Have Stories

3:11 "What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me."

What's your plot and story?

Paul and Timothy's story:

- From Lystra (1st and 2nd journey)
 - Mixed marriage (Mom Eunice was Jew; Dad was Gentile)
 - Became Paul's chief companion
 - Antioch, Iconium, Lystra (v11)
 - 25 people mentioned in 2Tim
 - Mentor and mentoree, conflict
- *Paul told Timothy to watch him!

My story:

- Tennessee
- Grandmother, Mom
- Young Life
- Watch people: Kaufmann through Knierim
- Conflict

God's story:

- Creation, Sin, Redemption
- Paul, others ask us to find ourselves in God's larger story

III.

The Bible is the Life-Giving Story

3:16 "All Scripture is Inspired by God"

God's story is life-giving (*theopneustos*) v16

- Genesis background: cosmos and humans
- Dry bones (Ezekiel)
- Holy Spirit (*ruah* and *pneuma*)
E.g. Narnia, when Aslan breathes on frozen statues

God's story enables life: vv16-17

- through teaching, reproof, correction, training
- produces a person equipped for good works

How does this happen?

Call to mind those who have lived inscripted lives
Who are these for you? Think on these.

Watch them, e.g. Tonya and exchange students watch us
Who's watching you?
Whom are you showing?
Find a mentor, be a mentor

Through Bible study: Discipling is Scripture-living
Are you in a regular Bible study?
Get in *Discipleship Essentials* group
Find your life in God's life-giving story

What do you ingest weekly?
This produces your story; what kind of story?
TV, internet, email, newspaper, radio, family of origin
Stop doing these things and start reading your Bible

Paul encouraged Timothy to watch him as he lived a scripted life. God's story in Scripture leads to life. If you want life in abundance, live a scripted life.