

Week 4 – Thinking Like Paul – Forward not Backward, Up not Down

Teaching: Setting My Mind – The Amazing Unused Means of Change

Ask yourself this Question: What am I going to do while I am where I am?

What am I going to do while I am waiting for my healing?

What am I going to do in this tense relationship?

What am I going to do as I wait for complete freedom from . . .(fear, addictions) ?

What am I going to do as my knees ache and my head pounds?

What am I going to do as I wait for my big opportunity?

What am I going to do while I am where I am?

The Answer: I am going to set my mind on things above and not things below.

Colossians 3:1-2 NIV Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Could there be a means of changing our thinking that we forget to tap into?

Setting my mind = John Piper calls this the Amazing Unused Means of Change

“I can passively talk through my problems and difficult situations hoping to discover the root of my brokenness or I can aggressively make a change with a NT principle – setting my mind.”

If you are going to use this tool of setting your mind – first start with understanding your position in Christ.

Eph 2:4-6 But God is so rich in mercy and he loved us so much that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

The physical, earthly realm

- where you live everyday with other people
- Where your body is getting older
- where disagreements happen with others
- where you run short of money.

- It is what we touch and feel.

Seated in heavenly places

- Seated with Him
- The kingdom of God
- The unseen but just as real if not more

There is RESERVED seating for those who are saved by God's grace (Eph 2:5)

Ephesians 2:4-6 God is so rich in mercy and he loved (woman's name) so much that even when (name) was dead because of her sins, he gave (name) life when he raised Christ from the dead.

It is only by God's grace that (name) has been saved.

For he raised (name) from the dead along with Christ and seated (name) with him in the heavenly realms because (name) is united with Christ Jesus.

Where is this heavenly place where we're seated with Jesus?

Mark 16:19 When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand.

Colossians 3:1-2 NIV Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

David Wilkerson writes: "It is none other than God's own throne room—the throne of grace, the dwelling place of the Almighty.

- This throne room is the seat of all power and dominion.
- It's the place where God rules over all principalities and powers
- It's the place where God reigns over the affairs of men.
- Here in the throne room, he monitors every move of Satan
- Here is the throne room, he examines every thought of man.

And Christ is seated at the Father's right hand.

- In Jesus resides all wisdom and peace
- all power and strength
- everything needed to live a victorious, fruitful life

Seated in Christ = *sygkathizo* = to cause to sit down together

Paul's audience knew the importance of the word "seat"
To be invited to a seat = important place of honor

Ephesians 1:19-23 seated him in the place of honor (this is the root word)
I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Seated him = *kathizo* = to set, appoint, to confer a kingdom upon

Seated in Christ = we are seated together in a royal setting with Jesus
= and the kingdom has been given to us.

Do I live as one who is seated at the table?
Or have I forgotten (or not understood) that I am seated in heavenly places?

Understanding 4 things about my seat

1. I'm seated in a place filled with God's provision

Paul says that all spiritual blessings are bestowed in the throne room. All the riches of Christ are available to us there: steadfastness, strength, rest, ever-increasing peace. “

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

All spiritual blessings are available for (name) here

All spiritual blessings

Eph 1:3-11

United with Christ

Loved by God

Chosen

Holy

Without fault

Adopted into His family
Super abundant grace working in us
Freedom
Forgiveness
Showered with wisdom and understanding
Part of His plan
Receiving an inheritance

This is a place of provision.

2. I'm seated in a place where there is no fear

Ted Dekker Illustration:

Imagine that you are with your Father high in a castle. Together you sit at a banquet table spread with a feast of delights. But before you can eat, you hear the snorting of horses outside. Startled, you throw your chair back and hurry to the window. There you see marauders in black cloaks like wraiths, rushing for the walls.

Frantic, you run from window to window. "Father," you cry, trembling in fear. "The enemy is at the gate to destroy us!"

He looks over without rising and sees what you see. "Those?" He says with great calm. "They cannot hurt me." Your Father looks into your eyes. "And you are my daughter." He lets the statement settle and then nods at the table. "Sit with me."

You blink once, remember who He is and who you are, and the sound of the rushing horses suddenly fades. By the time you reach the table, they are gone.

But of course! Who can prevail against your Father? Who can threaten Him? Who can even bother Him? No one. And you are His daughter.

So be at peace. Return to sit with your Father at His banquet table once again.
(The Forgotten Way, page 59)

3. I'm seated in a place where I belong and there is no competition.

In the earthly realm there are tables we are striving and competing to sit at?

the great marriage table?

the raising exceptional children table?

the dream house table?

the crafting my perfect career table?

the publishing my book table?

the great Christian platform table?

We are measuring our life against everyone else's seat.

When we don't understand our seat in heavenly realms, we battle for success and recognition.

Do you want to FREE from self-consciousness, comparing yourself to others?

We are seated together at the table.

King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table

a round table with no head to symbolize that each was no more important than the other.

You don't have to scramble to get the best seat!

"All seats have equal view to the universe." Planetarium visit

(Heather Holleman, Seated with Christ)

4. I'm seated in a place where I am uniquely called

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

Can you imagine knowing that you are seated at a royal table in the heavenly realms NO MATTER what is actually happening in your physical world?

When Paul wrote this verb – Seated- he was in prison!

Paul wrote that he was seated in Christ, when he was either sitting on a filthy prison floor, or housebound under guard.

Despite his physical reality, in his spiritual reality, he was seated with Christ in heavenly places.

What was his secret?

What did he know that we have to learn?

Colossians 3:1-2 NIV *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

Paul knew to set his mind on the things above and not on the things that are on earth!

What are your life "seats" that seem difficult right now?

Include health concerns, financial difficulties, relationships, career. . .

In heavenly places:

We think differently here.

We act differently here.
We have a different perspective here.
This place is filled with power and authority.
We have every spiritual blessing.
We do not think fearful thoughts.
We are not in any kind of competition.
We know we belong here.
We know we are uniquely called and have a destiny to fulfill.

TPT We have become his poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny he has given each of us. . .God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it.

They are each uniquely called.
God has planned in advance their own destiny.
God has good things for them to do in their own life.

- They are not sitting on my lap
- I am not sharing their seat

I can trust God at work in them to fulfill their destiny.

Col 3:2 TPT Feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.

Every day, every moment- **you choose** to align yourself with the things of this earth or the things above.