

December 12, 2021

God Exhaled

by Warren Berkley

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16,17)

It may at first sound crude, but I want us to consider that God doesn't have bad breath! Everything that comes from the mind of God; everything God caused to be written for our learning is good, perfect and necessary. “Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change,” (Jas. 1:17). Once we become convinced of the perfection of God and the perfect love of God, we entertain no doubt that all that He has given for us to read, study, believe and do is for our present and eternal good. God breathed out, God exhaled from His perfect mind and will. The result is Scripture.

This means there is no other book or writing that compares with Scripture. There may be books, articles and sermons that help us focus on Scripture and motivate us to apply it. There may be people who teach us and direct our thoughts into the text of Scripture. But there is no other book, no other person, no other presentation that is equal to the power and truth of what God caused to be written for us.

This means if we think we have

discovered something to do as “the Lord's work,” but there is nothing in Scripture to lead to that, it isn't worthy of our energy or attention. It is through the use of Scripture that we are “complete, equipped for every good work.” Man cannot just harvest some bright idea or project out of his mind, call it “the Lord's work” and recruit followers, thinking it is all approved by God – when there is nothing God has ever said that authorizes or leads to that activity.

This means our spiritual nourishment comes from what God has revealed, that provides the full benefit we need – for teaching, for reproof, for correction and training in righteousness. All my spiritual needs can be met when I rely only on Scripture. God breathed out and the result was exactly what we need.

This means I must read and study Scripture, then put the instruction into my mind and life, consistently and without long dry spells of neglect. How many of us have started reading Scripture, perhaps at the first of the year, but dropped it in March or April? How many of us have seasons of zeal and prayer and deep interests in Scripture, then let that season pass, distracted by the world? If we believe what Paul wrote in this passage, that belief must express itself in our habits, our thoughts, our priorities, our relationships and our growth as disciples of Christ.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

They Had Been With Jesus

By George Slover

“The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe. Many seek the ruler’s favor, But justice for man comes from the LORD.” (Proverbs 29:25-26)

During my Freshman year at Texas A&M I learned a valuable lesson. It seems that our class had stolen our Commanding Officer’s footlocker. After several weeks of hazing, we finally decided to give it back to him. A specific evening and place were designated for returning our prize to our Senior commander. On that evening we all met in the country with the footlocker full of ice and beer. To celebrate our truce our C.O. proposed a toast. He demanded that all of us would have a beer in our hands to be a part of this toast. I timidly held that beer can in my hand, but never took a sip. When it was convenient, I poured the beer on the ground. Hypocritically, I had given in to peer pressure.

Jesus, our savior, was the perfect example of the kind of life we are to live. When the critics observed his life they rightly state: “Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth.” (Mark 12:14) Jesus was not intimidated by the critics nor swayed by public opinion.

Joshua and Caleb refused to ride the tide of popular opinion. They would not listen to the ten other spies or to the complaints of Israel. Against the majority view they stated: “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” (Numbers 13:30) These two faithful spies were the only ones allowed to enter Canaan.

The child of God is to live for an audience of one. God alone is our judge. All things are to be measured by His standards! He alone is to direct our life and we are to seek his approval.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson has improved some but still has limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments and is recovering from Covid.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

Dinah Williams is home but still has very limited mobility.

Don Simmons is home and recovering from Covid.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner’s brother) is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

Mark Braddock has stage 4 cancer and is not going to seek treatment.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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