

“Something Incredibly Encouraging”

Lamentations 3:22-23

Tuesday Bible Lunch

October 30, 2018

Introduction: On your table, there is the little poem I quoted the past two Tuesdays. It is on a small piece of paper that you can put in your Bible or some place to keep.

“There are two natures within my breast
One is cursed, the other blessed
One I love, the other I hate
The one I feed will dominate.”

- I encourage you to memorize the poem and then feed on it each day.
- This is what the Bible teaches us to do (Phil. 4:8).

The problem we all face: Life this side of forever can be hard.

- There will be temptations all around you.
- Sickness and suffering come to you or someone dear to you.
- Hopes and dreams fail.
- There will be things that we never thought we would face.
- There will be times when you are tempted to give up.
- Life this side of forever can be hard.

Illustration: One of my seminary professors long ago said, “Boys remember each Sunday as you preach that on ever pew there is a broken heart.”

Life this side of forever can be hard, but we (Christians) have something incredibly encouraging to help us until we are on the other side. We see it in the book of Lamentations.

Text: Lamentations chapter 3

- Jerimiah wrote the book of Lamentations after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- The book of Lamentations describes the funeral of a city.
- Once proud Jerusalem is now reduced to rubble by the Babylonians (Lam. 1:1).
- Jeremiah's heart was broken.
- With life seemingly coming apart, Jeremiah remembered that God had never failed him in the past.
- Jeremiah is a good example of whatever you feed will dominate.
- We see this in Lamentations 3:22-23.
- These two verses remind us of things that we have as a child of God when life this side of forever is hard.

T.S. Let me mention two of them.

1. God's love for you never ceases.

- God will never give up on you.

- God will love you just as much on your worst day as He loves you on your best day.
- God's love is forever.

Illustration: One way the devil tries to defeat us is to keep us from really believing that God never ceases loving us.

Application: When life this side of forever is hard, keep feeding your mind that God's love for you never ceases.

2. God's mercies for you are new every day.

- God's mercy is not generic. It is "form fitted" for what you face each day.
- God's mercy gives you what you need, as much as you need, when you need it.

Illustration: Keeping you from believing this is another way the devil tries to defeat us.

Application: When life this side of forever is hard, keep feeding your mind that God's mercies for you will be new whatever you face each day.

Conclusion: Life this side of forever can be hard. Whatever you face, remember that you have something incredibly encouraging to help you and then "feed" on it.