

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 24TH-25TH, 2019 // 2 TIMOTHY

STAND CLEAR (2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5)

HARD TIMES WILL COME IN THE LAST DAYS

The "last days" have been happening since the resurrection of Jesus. As time moves forward, evil will escalate and the battle lines of good and evil will become more clear.

- The coming of Christ drew a clear distinction of right and wrong (Mt. 10:34) and as time moves forward, many will turn from His teachings.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GODLESSNESS

Paul mentions a list of characteristics that people who have succumbed to evil show in their lives.

- **Lovers of self:** self-centered, not focusing on God but on humanism and selfish desires.
- **Lovers of money:** greedy and envious.
- **Boastful and proud:** arrogant and too good to listen and learn from others.
- **Demeaning:** pride and arrogance lead to talking down to and about others. No respect.
- **Disobedient to parents:** with such a lack of parental guidance this will increase.
- **Ungrateful:** entitled, not appreciating the things we do have.
- **Unholy:** practicing evil things with no desire to be righteous.
- **Unloving, irreconcilable, and slanderous:** without love for people, we have no desire to get along or talk kindly about them.
- **No self-control, brutal, without love for what is good:** without absolutes we run out of control and we hurt people.
- **Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God:** this is the source of all the evil.

HOLDING TO A FORM OF GODLINESS?

Many people will be deceived to believe that evil people are actually holy and good. Many will even say they're Christians, but because of their evil behavior they may have a façade of godliness, but **there's no substance.**

- **Look at the results of popular culture. It claims moral and spiritual superiority, but it's falling apart.**

HOW CAN WE "AVOID" AND STILL WITNESS?

To "avoid these people" means to not let them have influence over us. We are to love, pray for, and spend time with people that are living in evil for the sake of showing them the freedom that is Jesus.

- **We must be wise and close to Jesus when we engage in the dark corners of society. Insulated not isolated!**

CORRUPT IN MIND (2 TIMOTHY 3:6-9)

"...WORM THEIR WAY INTO HOUSEHOLDS"

In Paul's time a lot of false teachers and deceptive people would prey on weak-willed women and take advantage of them.

- Paul is not picking on women, but saying that **anyone who is "overwhelmed by sins and led astray by a variety of passions" can be easily deceived and taken advantage of.**

LEARNING BUT NEVER GAINING KNOWLEDGE

The people Paul was referring to were people that were always studying books and learning new things, but they never came to the "knowledge of the truth" because the goal wasn't Christ, but selfish desires.

- This is happening today, even in Christian circles! **We study every passing self-help fad while neglecting the truth.**

WHO ARE JANNES AND JAMBRES?

Ex. 7:11, 22 mention the magicians brought in by Pharaoh to oppose Moses. Their names are not mentioned in the OT, but come from Jewish history. Like these two men, people that live like v1-5 **oppose the truth, therefore opposing God.**

"CORRUPT IN MIND AND WORTHLESS IN REGARD TO THE FAITH"

People that have gone so far as to be "without love for what is good" (v3) have been given over to a **depraved mind** (Rom. 1:20-28).

- **This is called "blasphemy of the Holy Spirit." Basically, the only unforgivable sin is the pride that makes one refuse to ask for forgiveness.**

THE FAÇADE WILL EVENTUALLY CRUMBLE

Timothy probably felt like the truth was losing to false teaching and the increasingly violent and destructive culture around him. But, Paul assured him **God and His truth will win out in the end.**

- As we look around, **we must also remember that the light cannot be overcome by the darkness.**

STAND FIRM (2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17)

OUR LIVES WILL EXHIBIT OUR TRUE CHARACTER

Paul encourages Tim because he has followed his "teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love and endurance." Tim's lifestyle showed the change God had performed in his heart.

- **Following Jesus resides in both good theology (knowing right) and good behavior (doing right).**

SUFFERING IS ALSO A HALLMARK OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Paul recounts the suffering he suffered in multiple cities (and remember he was in Rome awaiting execution). Paul was confident that God was taking care of him the whole time.

- Though we don't always understand, **"all who want to live a godly life... will be persecuted."** In this, **we must trust that God knows what He is doing.**

"EVIL...WILL BECOME WORSE"

Evil people and spiritual imposters will be worse as time goes on and the things of God will increasingly enrage those who have no desire to humble themselves and seek truth.

- Christians need to understand we will never be fully accepted by the culture of the world (Jn. 15:19).

WE MUST CONTINUE IN WHAT IS RIGHT

If we know that times will get harder, we must diligently **stand firm on what we have been taught**, while continuing to **study, pray, and build a relationship with God and other believers.**

- **Following Christ is more than a one-time decision. It is a life-long journey that evolves us closer to Him!**

TIM HAD GOOD EXAMPLES AROUND HIM

Paul mentions that Tim had known the "sacred scriptures" since his "infancy." This means he had family that **taught** him the truth and **modeled** it in front of him.

- Though many of us didn't have teachers and role models growing up, **we have the church and many people to help us along the way!**

WE ALSO HAVE THE WORD OF GOD

Yes, the Bible was written by people, but they were "carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Pt. 1:21).

The Word of God gives us supernatural wisdom straight from the mind of God to help us in this life!

- **God gave us a definitive anchor and map to show us exactly how we should live the best life possible.**

IN ORDER TO BE COMPLETE

- **We need to get it into our brains that God wants the best for us.** Not just salvation, but contentment and fulfillment now.
- We must also take advantage of the tools God has given us in order to exhibit the lives He wants us to live. This means **we must submit and humble ourselves.**
- The **Holy Spirit** is a gift that gives us comfort and counsel.
- **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are practical ways to edify us and bring us closer to Him.
- **Prayer** is our ability to talk to God. What a gift!
- **The Church** is a gift that holds us accountable and gives us community.
- **The Bible** is the mind of God on paper and it is the easiest and most clear way to know His will and desires for us.
- The Bible also **teaches, rebukes** (tells us what is wrong), **corrects**, and **trains** us so that we may be **"complete"** and **"equipped."**