

LIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES
2 Timothy 3:1-17
5/7/17

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

1. Realize that in the last days difficult times will come. 3:1-5a

Don't be shocked.

Don't be deceived.

We are not going to fix the world through political action and social programs.

We are not going to bring in the kingdom of God.

Don't be afraid.

Christ knows about it.

He has promise to be with us and take us through whatever He allows us to experience.

I believe that Christians will be raptures just before the final years of Great Tribulation.

That doesn't mean however that we won't experience persecution prior to that time.

a. Things will get far worse just before Christ returns. v. 1

v. 13 cf Matthew 24:4-31; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2:1-3, 10ff; Jude 1:17-19

b. People will have a misplaced love. vv. 2-5a

Instead of loving God and their neighbors, people will love themselves, money, and pleasure.

2 Lovers of self

Self-love, self-esteem, self-fulfillment, self-actualization, and a positive self-image have even found their way into the church through pop psychology.

Barclay: "Love of self is the basic sin from which all other sins flow. The moment a man makes his own will and his own desires the center of life, divine and human relationships are destroyed. . . All sin begins with selfishness."

Lovers of money

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil . . .

Boastful, arrogant-

- ◆ proud and self-promoting
- ◆ an attitude of superiority

Revilers

They lie, slander, and demean people with whom they disagree

Disobedient to parents- rebellious

Ungrateful

They think that they deserve all they get and more.

Unholy- irreverent, disrespectful toward the things of God

3 Unloving- without natural affection (heartless, callous, cruel)

Irreconcilable- unwilling to forgive and to make peace

Malicious gossips- they attempt to ruin other people's reputations and relationships

Without self-control

Instead they are controlled by their impulses, emotions, appetites, and desires

Brutal- fierce, savage, vicious

Haters of good

4 Treacherous- they can't be trusted (disloyal, traitors and betrayers)

Reckless-

They think that they are invincible

They make decisions that are often harmful to themselves and others.

Conceited- They have a false sense of self-importance.

Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

Holding a form of godliness, although they have denied its power

They may profess to be Christians, but their actions say otherwise.

2. Avoid False Teachers 3:5b-9

Have nothing to do with them.

a. They often prey on a certain type of woman. vv. 6-7

This is not talking about all women, but a particular type of woman.

- ◆ Women who are weighed down with sins (guilt)
- ◆ Women who are led on by various impulses
Controlled by their emotions and desires
- ◆ These women are always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth

They are gullible and theologically unstable

Ephesians 4:14 . . . tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

They fall for every new religious fad

b. They oppose the truth of God's Word. vv. 8-9

- They are compared to Jannes and Jambres.
 - ◆ According to Jewish tradition (outside of the Bible), Jannes and Jambres were the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses before Pharaoh. Cf Exodus 7:8-13
 - ◇ They are said to have pretended to become Jewish converts and gone out of Egypt in the Exodus.

- ◇ They are said to have later led Israel astray and help instigate the worship of the golden calf.
 - They and others who oppose the truth are unsaved.
 - ◆ **Depraved mind-** corrupted, perverted
 - ◆ **Rejected in regard to the faith**
 - ◇ In spite of their claims, these people do not have a saving faith.
 - Their folly will be obvious to all (true believers)
- Titus 1:16** They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.
- ◇ Both their teaching and in their lifestyles are inconsistent with the gospel

Realize that in the last days difficult times will come

Avoid the false teachers.

3. Continue in the things you have learned. 3:10-17

It is the scriptures that bring truth and stability.

a. Remember from whom you have learned them. vv. 10-14

Timothy could remember Paul's example.

- ◆ Paul's teaching was Biblical
- ◆ Paul's conduct was consistent with his profession of faith.
- ◆ Paul's purpose and passion were the glory of God and the salvation of lost souls.
- ◆ Paul's willingness to suffer for the gospel revealed his faith, patience, love and perseverance.

12 We need to remember that we too can expect rejection and persecution and follow Paul's example.

- We always need to examine the teachings and life styles of those who claim to represent God.
 - ◆ Avoid those who use the ministry for personal gain.
 - Money, power, and self-promotion
 - ◆ Avoid those who are involved in womanizing and sexual immorality.

b. Know the Scriptures. vv. 15-17

- The scriptures are sacred. v. 15a
 - ◆ They are from God.
 - ◆ **Scripture (graphe)** is used exclusively in the Bible to refer to the Old and New Testament writings.

• The scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation. v. 15b

Romans 10:17 So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

They show us our sin, Christ's substitutionary sacrifice, and our need to response of repentance and faith.

- Scripture is inspired by God. v. 16a

Theopneustos- "God breathed"

2 Peter 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- ◆ God used human authors to speak and record His Word.
 - ◇ He worked through their personalities and experiences to record His revelation to us.
- ◆ God was able communicate and preserve His Word so that the original manuscripts are without error.
 - ◇ Notice that it is the Scriptures, NOT the authors or the readers that are inspired.

- Scripture is profitable. v. 16b

- ◆ **Teaching-** so that we might know what is right
- ◆ **Reproof-** confronting us where we are wrong
- ◆ **Correction-** specific steps to restore us so that we might live right
- ◆ **Training in righteousness-** so that we might live godly lives

- Scripture equips us for every good work. v. 17

4. Truths That Matter

a. During these times of rebellion and apostasy continue to grow and be equipped through the Scriptures.

- God has communicated to us.
- He communicates to us through the Scriptures.
- The Bible shows us what is true and brings perspective in a world of confusion.
 - ◆ Do you have a regular time each day when you spend time alone studying what God has communicated to us?
 - ◇ If not, set up a time when you can be alone learning what God wants us to know.

b. Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith.

v. 12 Is there any evidence that you are saved?

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.