



Pastoral Epistles Part 2
Second Timothy Chapter Three

1. Perilous times in the last days

2 Timothy 3:1

In chapter one, Paul wrote to Timothy and told him that he did not have a spirit of fear.

When he told Timothy that he must have a sound mind, that meant that his mind would be protected. His mind would not give in to fear, panic, or unreasonable thinking.

When we are walking by faith, we are not living by fear. We have a mind that is thinking correctly. That is a sound mind.

In 2 Timothy 3:1 we see why it is important in the last days to not give into a spirit of fear, but to have a sound mind.

Definition of PERILOUS: Difficult, dangerous, or filled with risk. It is a prophetic warning that the last days will be filled with difficulty.

The last days in which we are living require a _____

Romans 8:14

This literally means that the Holy Spirit will take us by the hand and lead us.

How can this happen for us?

- _____
- We will never have the leading of the Holy Spirit if we are bound by the spirit of fear. We must be walking by faith and have a sound mind.

The Holy Spirit knows our future and can share with us information we need to live successfully in the last days.

When the Holy Spirit speaks to you to do something very specific, you should do it.

2 Timothy 3:1

The word KNOW here means that Paul's message is so critical that it must be known, must be recognized, and must be acknowledged. In other words, whatever the Holy Spirit is about to say it is so important that hearing it is not optional. It must be known and understood.

Definition of PERILOUS TIMES:

- Hurtful
- _____
- Cruel
- _____
- Cutting
- _____
- Hard to bear

The word was also used of animals that were vicious, ferocious, fierce, unruly, uncontrollable, unpredictable, and dangerous.

2000 years ago, the Holy Spirit warned us that the world would become a dangerous place at the end of the age.

Matthew 8:28

The phrase "exceedingly fierce" is the same Greek phrase translated "perilous times".

Instead of retreating in fear, Christians must accept the challenge to step forward as Jesus did when he encountered the demon possessed men.

The situation in today's world requires the church to take action and use the authority of Jesus Christ to bring deliverance and freedom.

2. Signs of the last days

2 Timothy 3:2

Definition of LOVERS OF THEMSELVES:

- Self-love
- Self-consumption
- _____
- Self-focused
- _____
- Self-absorbed
- To be utterly consumed with yourself

This means that your own needs and wants are the center of your world.

Rather than living selfless lives and service to others, your consideration is always for you own self-interest and desires. Everything else takes a backseat to that.

The Greek word also includes the idea of kissing. It is like somebody standing in the mirror and kissing themselves! It's a fondness or attraction to yourself.

The next thing is the list is _____

Paul was letting us know that in the last days people would be so self-absorbed that even if they had funds available to help others, they would refuse to help. They would spend ridiculous amounts of money on themselves.

Definition of BOASTERS: This is not just describing someone who is a bragger, but also a liar.

It means a person so committed to his own self-promotion and agenda that he is willing to exaggerate, overstate the facts, stretch the truth, embellish the story, and even lie if it will get him a new position or goal that he desires.

It is doing or saying, whatever you must, in order to further your agenda, even if it disagrees with your conscience or convictions.

Definition of PROUD: This word describes a person who sees himself above the rest of the crowd. It is an arrogant and haughty attitude that thinks it is intellectually advantaged, and therefore has the right to set the agenda for everyone else

Definition of BLASPHEMERS: This word does not just refer to blaspheming God. It also means to speak discourteously, slanderously, and reproachfully.

It also means to be _____

People in this category see themselves as superior to those who they consider stuck in a primitive mode of thinking. People who believe in righteous living are disdained by these people.

Definition of DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS: This describes children who parents can no longer persuade, control, lead, or exercise authority over.

Definition of UNTHANKFUL: An unthankful person does not focus on their blessings, but instead focuses on what they do not have. These people become unappreciative and unthankful. They live their lives void of gratitude.

If you have an ungrateful attitude in your life, you will never be happy. Thankfulness is a prerequisite to happiness.

The next thing is unholy. It is important to know that being unthankful and unholy are connected. One always leads to the other. This is why Paul lists the word unholy immediately after the word unthankful. When people stop expressing a heart of gratitude toward God, unholy attitudes begin to follow. These attitudes are followed by ungodly behavior.

Definition of UNHOLY:

- Unholy
- _____
- Impure
- Unsanctioned by God

2 Timothy 3:3

The King James Version uses “without natural affection” instead of “unloving”.

Definition of UNLOVING: In the last days, strong family ties and devotion to one’s family will deteriorate.

The traditional family relationships that once existed are threatened today. The family resides in one house together, but they do not share life together. They most often do not even share meals together.

Sociologists have determined that this has contributed to the rebellion in children and even mental illnesses. It is a sign of the times in which we are living.

The King James Version uses “trucebreakers” instead of “unforgiving”.

Definition of TRUCEBREAKERS: One who breaks a truce or one who breaks a covenant. An example of this in our society is divorce.

Definition of SLANDERERS: This word is used for people who argue and debate in a court of law. The same word is used to describe the devil.

Definition of BRUTAL:

- Fierce
- _____
- Vicious
- Uncivilized
- _____
- Ferocious
- Inhumane

Where do we see this in society? – The abortion industry

Definition of DESPISERS OF GOOD: This depicts a society where law is not primarily intended to protect the rights of good people, but rather is used instead to protect and defend the rights of offenders.

2 Timothy 3:4

Definition of HEADSTRONG: People so wholly given to violence that they become known for their violent, reckless behavior. It means to exhibit a lack of self-control.

In the last days certain members of society will fully embrace violence and lose their ability to control their tempers.

Definition of HAUGHTY:

- High-minded
- To be lifted up with pride

Definition of LOVERS OF PLEASURE: Denotes an exaltation of pleasure, especially signified by the freedom to sexually express oneself.

In Ancient Greece any sexual expression was permissible as long as the parties involved agreed. There was no moral standard. The Greek word is used to describe an unrestrained seeking of carnal pleasures.

This word also means to be preoccupied with pleasure and pursuing happiness.

This is the false doctrine of Hedonism, which says that pleasure or happiness is the highest good.

In the last days, people will try to find happiness with material goods and comfort.

God is more concerned with your _____ than he is about your _____

Many people think that Jesus wants you to be happy about everything. But this is false teaching. Such teaching ignores the fact that Jesus frequently calls for us to die to ourselves, deny ourselves, and pick up our cross and carry it. Obeying the call of God on your life means that you will be required to sacrifice, humble yourself, and even lay down your rights.

This false doctrine, that we are entitled to be happy, leads people to avoid any decision or action that brings inconvenience to their schedule, plans, or comfort. This is a doctrine of selfishness, that justifies self-focus, and non-service. Because of this, Christians are often obsessed with comfort and pleasure to an extent that they do not want to be asked to do anything that inconveniences them.

However, when we look at the Bible, we know that the Gospel puts demands on us to crucify our flesh to walk in the Spirit.

God wants to meet your needs and bless you. This is not what Paul is writing about. He is talking about loving pleasure more than you love God.

Definition of LOVERS OF GOD: People who are deeply and profoundly in love with God.

2 Timothy 3:5

Definition of HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENYING ITS POWER: Having no faith that it is possible to live godly in this life.

3. Unholy people in the church leading others astray

Paul warns Timothy about people in the church who are not living a godly life who have the goal of leading others astray.

As a pastor, Timothy should be aware of people like this.

2 Timothy 3:6-9

The Amplified Bible helps to have a better understanding of these verses.

2 Timothy 3:6, 7 – The Amplified Bible

For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate morally weak and spiritually-dwarfed women weighed down by [the burden of their] sins, easily swayed by various impulses, always learning and listening to anybody who will teach them, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The women being described by Paul are not living holy lives. They are Christians who are living in sin.

They always learn the Word of God, but because they never apply it they are spiritually-dwarfed. They are learning, but never growing.

2 Timothy 3:8, 9 – The Amplified Bible

Just as Jannes and Jambres [the court magicians of Egypt] opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, unqualified and worthless [as teachers] in regard to the faith. But they will not get very far, for their meaningless nonsense and ignorance will become obvious to everyone, as was that of Jannes and Jambres.

Some of these unholy people wanted to be teachers in the church.

Paul compares them to the magicians in Egypt who opposed Moses.

The names of the magicians, Jannes and Jambres, are not recorded in the Old Testament. However, they were handed down by tradition.

We learn from Exodus that Pharaoh's magicians imitated some of Moses's miracles by their enchantments. By thus pretending to work miracles equal to those of Moses, they resisted him in his attempts to persuade Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.

The men at the Ephesian church were also resisting the truth being taught by Timothy.

They also had false miracles. In the early ages of Christianity, the heretical teachers are said to have been much addicted to the study of magic.

These men opposed the progress of the Gospel by pretending to have as much authority as the apostles. They were men of corrupt minds and were not to be regarded as true teachers in the church.

4. Timothy followed Paul's life.

2 Timothy 3:10, 11

Definition of CARFULLY FOLLOWED:

- _____
- Attain
- Follow
- _____
- Have understanding.

2 Timothy 3:10 – The Amplified Bible

Now you have diligently followed [my example, that is] my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness,

Timothy, as Paul's spiritual son, not only observed these things in Paul's life, but also followed his example.

Definition of MANNER OF LIFE: _____

Definition of PURPOSE: A setting forth for a specific purpose

LONGSUFFERING: Patience, endurance, steadfastness, perseverance

PERSEVERANCE: _____

Specifically in this verse, perseverance means the characteristic of a man who is undeterred from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith in spite of great trials and suffering.

5. When you live a godly life you will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12

6. Timothy must not be moved but stand his ground.

2 Timothy 3:13-15

Definition of CONTINUE: Describes a constant and continual habit. It is a tradition, custom, ritual, or practice that you abide or stay in and refuse to violate.

It also means to hold your position and refuse to move.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

Definition of INSPARATION: _____

This word is a picture of God breathing his own substance into something. Like a musician would blow on an instrument to produce a distinct sound, God mightily moved on those who wrote the scripture. They became an instrument through whom God expressed Himself. They were writers, but God was the musician.

Definition of PROFITABLE:

- Helpful
- Profitable
- _____
- Beneficial
- _____

Why is the Word of God profitable?

When we understand the word “inspiration”, we realize that the Bible is not a book about God, it is a book that contains God.

His own breath and Spirit are contained within it. That is why we need to spend time studying the Word and meditating on it.

Definition of DOCTRINE: Those things we affirm and believe to be true; teaching

Definition of REPROOF: _____

Definition of CORRECTION: This is not the same as reproof. The word “correction” is a poor translation of the Greek word. It actually means that God’s Word has the power to lift a person, even if they have been knocked down in life. The word of God will set him on his feet again.

Definition of INSTRUCTION: _____

Specifically, the Word of God gives us instruction in righteousness. This means training in right living.

When the Word of God is taken into our hearts and applied to our lives, it will help us live successfully at a higher standard which is upright, godly, and clean living.

Definition of THOUROUGHLY: Fully supply