

II Timothy, Sermon #18

II Timothy 3

Are we living in the last days? According to the Bible, we are.

What was the reference? Hebrews 1:1-2

In these last days, there will be some perilous seasons.

How do we know if we are in a perilous time?

When God's people are characterized by vs. 2-9

I didn't say the "world"; I said the "church."

I've entitled this entire series "Living in the World, Part 2"

With today's message, I will complete the overview of this chapter and next week we will return to a verse-by-verse study.

II Timothy 3:5

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 3:5-17

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Living in the World

The moral situation of church people is described in verses 2-4.

Five of those terms have the same kind of root to them—love.

We are in a perilous season when church people are—

1. Lovers of their own selves, self-lovers, vs. 2
2. Covetous, silver-loving – money lovers, vs. 2
3. Vs 3, without normal love – natural affection is missing – healthy love is missing
4. Vs. 3e, despisers of those that are good – that which is good is bad, and that which is bad is good—A love for the bad
5. Vs. 4c, pleasure lovers

As we look at the catalog of verses 2-4, the dominant feature of a perilous season is misplaced affection

When love is perverted, nothing is impossible with people, nothing is restrained from them.

This passage is not here to simply just frighten us; it is here to give us direction.

How to live in such a period of time?

How do we rear our children in such an environment?

How do we keep ourselves unspotted in the world?

How do we prepare the next generation of young people not to be soiled or to be sucked in?

The challenge is immense.

Our society does not reinforce Biblical values.

Now in past days, our society had a heritage.

The public may not have recognized the Christian influence, but it was there.

People lived a certain way; they knew what was decent and good.

But this is no longer the case and we must have our guard up and be on the defensive.
 We could expect our society to be godless but not churches.
 Our churches are not reinforcing very many Biblical values either.

God shares this with us in II Timothy 3.

Both verses 10 and 14 are a contrast; in contrast to these perilous seasons.

What is the direction God gives to us for dealing with this kind of a culture?

What is the first direction given to men and women who desire to live a life that is
 non-conformist?

Paul is our example of how to do it. Look at the words in vs. 10-12

Vs. 10 – long suffering/patience = endurance

Vs. 11 – persecutions/affliction/persecutors

Vs. 12 – persecution

This is the emphasis

Paul said I am an example of enduring through this.

If any of us are going to survive this kind of season, what is needed?

A readiness to suffer, to endure

All who will live Godly (look at verse 12)—is that our will? Is that our desire?

★If it is, then we will suffer.

Now, because we live in a western society, we are physically protected because of our
 laws, etc.

But we know that can change fast.

There are people who will resist the truth and what is surprising about it is—it isn't the
 ungodly world.

It is the religious world that will persecute.

Vs. 8 – so do these – church people resisting the Truth

Vs. 5-8 – form of Godliness, external looks (vs. 7), always learning but never able to grasp, (vs. 8) also resist the truth

Religious people who resist the truth, therefore, persecute those who hold to it.

We send one of our preacher boys into a church and he preaches the Bible—he will be resisted

Jan-knees and Jam-breeze resisted the truth.

Who are Jan-knees and Jam-breeze?

They are not found anywhere else in the Bible, but clearly this passage had reference to the early days when Moses went in to speak before Pharaoh.

God gave Moses some miraculous signs to perform, and what did Pharaoh's magicians do?

They duplicated some of those miracles. They withstood the truth.

Religious people will do the same.

Religious people will persecute a Bible-believer. Why?

In the case of Jan-knees and Jam-breeze, their power with civil officials was eroded.

★We look into the history of the church and the fieriest persecution of Bible-believers has not just come from the godless world.

It has come from religion.

Read the Book of Acts.

The Roman government's persecution came late in that book.

The fierce persecution came from the Jews and they were the ones to stir up the civil authorities.

This was the case for Jesus Christ.

Pontius is inclined to release Him.

It is false religion that is accusing Him and is insistent on His execution.

We will know it is a savage season because persecution comes from religious people
and they will resist the truth.

If we are Godly, we are going to suffer. True Bible-believing people will not escape this.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:11, *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.”*

Jesus specifies three forms of resistance:

First, revile you. How do you revile someone? With the tongue, abusive speech

Second, persecute—pursue with intent to injure

Third, say all kinds of evil against us. How do you do that? Verbally

Two out of three forms of resistance are abusive speech, not abusive action

With that in mind, listen to vs.12 again

Vs. 12

There will be people who will always resist us, and if they can't harm us physically,
they will malign us verbally.

We live in a cocoon here in America.

When I get on a plane and leave the shores of America and drop into a new country,
I quickly understand the residual effects of our history allowing our freedoms to
preach, evangelize, to have a Bible, Bibles.

The world is a fanatical, dangerous place. How are we going to live and survive?

Those who have only religion—when pressure comes, they wilt and are assimilated back into the populace.

They are powerless, worldly, weak, and defeated.

They are only believers as long as it's convenient – vs. 5

What is it that really strengthens people to suffer, to be able to keep the faith?

Vs. 14

What has Timothy learned? Look at verse 15.

What is it – Holy Scriptures – vs. 15

And then God puts down one of the most powerful statements in the Bible regarding the source of the Bible.

Vs. 16, the inspiration—literally, breathed out by God.

And it is profitable for four things.

1. Doctrine
2. Reproof, that is calling people into account for wrong-doing
3. Correction, and
4. Instruction in righteousness

Vs. 17

To survive the perilous season:

First, the believer must be prepared to suffer and

Second, a believer must be committed in persisting in a Scriptural lifestyle—continue in what you have learned.

What was that? The Scripture. Don't abandon it.

In vs. 15 and 16, we have two different terms translated “scripture” in vs. 15 and 16

The word in vs.15 is the word “*grammatie*” – it occurs 15 times in the New Testament.
 Nine of those times it is translated “letters”—the alphabetical letters—the holy letters
 And if some ask us to the “extent” of inspiration, it is to the very letters

The other term is in vs.16 – “*graffe*” – 50 times and it means “scripture.”
 We get our word graphics from this/refers to the design of things

These two terms really give us our view of the Bible—authoritative and inspired.

There is a ton of views about the Bible in religious circles.

What the Bible teaches regarding itself in II Peter 1:20-21 is that nothing of the Scripture
 is of human invention—ZERO—none of it

We will not be able to face dangerous times if we waffle on this point.

What does it explain about the source?

It is that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit.

How did Scripture come?

None of it was by human mind, human will

All of it came as God’s Spirit bore those men along in writing—God-breathed.

Every word of Scripture is as God wanted it written and God is the source of all
 Scripture.

All the words and all the letters—vs. 15

Every word is inspired—the very words themselves.

Verbal – every word of it

Plenary – all of it

Given by God to us. This is it. This is what we believe. This is what the Bible teaches.
 But to many church people, this is foreign, debatable.

In vs. 15, therefore, the holy Scriptures are capable of making people wise unto what?
Salvation

From a child, Timothy, you have known this.

How many turn from the Bible after being raised on it?

This Book tells us what it is to be saved, how to be saved, how long I am saved, what happens when I am saved, why I need to be saved.

The Scriptures are able to make thee wise unto salvation.

Look at vs. 15b.

It is by faith and through Jesus Christ—not baptism, not church membership, not holy rites, not Communion, not works—but through faith in Jesus Christ.

Not any reverend, any Buddha or monk, any priest or pastor—but through Jesus Christ.

This is as simple as it can be put, and if you are desperate to know “what must I do to be saved?”—well, here it is.

Put your faith in Christ. That’s it. Don’t put your faith in anyone or anything else.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and nobody comes to the Father but by Him.

God’s Word is able to make us **wise** about salvation in a world that is filled with so many religious voices.

Now, once you become a believer in Christ, once you become the man or woman of God, vs. 17, now the Scripture is profitable to perfect us in every way—completes us in every regard.

Folks, we cannot abandon Scripture.

But, that is exactly what religious people are doing.

4:1-2 – preaching of the Scripture is very important to God and any failure to square up with this demand will lead to catastrophic failure for the people of God.

“I charge you,” based on vs. 15, 16, & 17, God says, “to preach the Word.”

“Instant in season” – that’s when people want to hear it.

“Out of season” – that’s when people don’t want to hear it.

Keep it up and do it with reproof, rebuke, and exhortation, with all long-suffering and doctrine

What makes Medora, Medora is this Book—preached, taught, and believed on

Vs. 3-4

We, as a church, are committed to be a preaching and teaching station of the Scripture and we must be prepared to suffer.

I want to remind us of the place and privilege we have by the providence of God, in the affairs of God.

We are, by the grace of God, influencing far beyond this church, and it is the influence of one thing—the unleashed Scripture, the Word of God.

And, our heart is to take the Word to the world—by sending people, by training preachers, by evangelizing our neighbors.

We are committed to this and, thus far, our only opposition has been the slander from the tongues of people.

But the day may come when it will cost us dearly—would we be committed to the Word then?

Are we committed to Medora because it is successful or are we committed because it is Scriptural?

All across our country, the bottom line financially is what drives the philosophy of the ministry.

Are we committed just because it is working? That is called “pragmatism”

And churches are willing to try anything so long as it works to fill a seat?

What does God say?

Continue in what we have learned.

Continue in the Scriptures.

Continue in the preaching of it.

It’s not in Dr. Pepper or cappuccino in the lobbies.

It’s not a concrete parking lot.

It’s not another addition to the building.

It’s not a recreation or multi-use center—that perfects the saints.

It is the Word of God.

What is it that the world desperately needs? The church desperately needs?

It’s the Bible, and if that doesn’t work, give them more Bible.

And if that doesn’t work, pour on more of the Bible.

It’s the only thing that makes people wise unto salvation and helps them grow to maturity.

What we have today, when we look across the plains of America, is the people of God, devoid of the Word—malnourished

And the people say, “Preacher, people don’t want to hear it. If you do that, you will empty the pews.”

So what, the Bible already told us that – 4:3

But what do God’s people need? The Bible

The B-I-B-L-E, that’s the Book for me. I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E.

Morning, noon, and night—what do we give? The Holy Scriptures

And, we need to be satisfied with that and be prepared to suffer any ill consequences that will come because of the Bible.

So, the answer to living in a perilous season is the Word of God.

Living in this world

Let us stand for closing invitation

Majesty Hymns, Hymn 452

“In times like these you need the Bible,
In times like these O be not idle;
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!”

Folks, we are in a perilous season. What we need it the Word of God.

Are we holding to the truth? Are we reading, studying?

Do we love it more than our necessary food?

Do we suffer because of our Biblical stand/standards?

Is our lifestyle, our language, our home life Biblical or are we described in vs. 2-4?

Do we have a form of religion, but no power in our life?

First, we must make sure that our faith has been placed in Jesus Christ.

Have you done that?