

II Timothy, Sermon #19

II Timothy 3

In the last two sermons, we covered the entire chapter.
Today we go back and look into this chapter in depth.

Vs. 1 – we are in the last days and we are in a perilous season.

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

If the church people can be described by verses 2-5

This is a catalog of what the Christian people will look like in a perilous season.

I've entitled this series "Living in the World."

Today is Part 3.

II Timothy 3:1

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

II Timothy 3:1-5

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Living in the World

Who are we describing here in verses 2-5 – religious people

First characteristic – lovers of their own selves – self-lovers – selfishness

Religious man's departure from God – that doesn't sound right.

If a man's desires are his chief concern, then money becomes the way to provide those desires.

Second, covetous – made up of two words: silver loving – money loving – self-lovers and money-lovers go hand in hand.

Self-centeredness

3. Boasters [bragging] – braggadocios – glorying in themselves

Boastful people brag about their accomplishments/skills/abilities.

Church growth – this seems to be the mantra of our day and time.

Boasting outwardly comes from pride inwardly.

4. Proud – arrogant – haughty

Self-exalting and determined to have their/our own way

Arrogant has the literal meaning of placing above, hence the idea of superiority.

Luke 18:9-14

★ In the modern church, it becomes harder and harder to find those who are servants and humble.

5. Blasphemers

Speak evil of others—especially God.

There is a looseness in the church—in our dress, in our appearance, and in our mouth/in our worship—to the extent we get blasphemous because of a lack of respect for God

Lack of Biblical fear/reverence of God

6. Disobedient to parents – even the children of the church are affected.

The disobedience of children to parents in our day has become endemic, and the cause is not hard to find.

Not only are children born with a sinful nature, but the disappearance of mothers in the home and the spiritual failure of fathers in taking leadership on top of wrong parenting philosophies—befriend my child, no physical discipline, no restraint.

We see the breaking-up of our social system, even within the walls of the church. The church is at blame in this—we cannot point our finger at secular society.

Children who will rebel against their parents will have no qualms about rebelling against anyone else.

It should be no surprise that a generation whose natural, sinful self-love has been reinforced and justified is now undermining the family and the church. They live independently of the family, of the church family, and eventually God.

“Disobedient to parents” demonstrates the rebellion in the homes of church families.

7. Unthankful and do not appreciate – a lack of appreciation – ingratitude

Ungrateful is self-explanatory.

The **ungrateful** person – the unthankful person

Church people are not satisfied.

8. Unholy . . . gross indecency – no respect for anything holy

The unholy person is driven by self-love to gratify his lusts and passions of whatever sort, as fully as possible with no thought to God, Bible, decency, or personal reputation.

Unholy – They are actually against God in their conversation and in their manner of life.

9. Without natural affection – means having abnormal relationships—the very foundations of the society and the church are destroyed.

Sex outside marriage, sexual revolution, adultery, fornication, pornography, perversion

We are living in a day when homosexuality is being accepted as normal conduct within churches—entire denominations are OK-ing this lifestyle and are ordaining pastors.

Humanity sinks to its lowest level when it accepts homosexuality, bestiality, transvestite, transgender, pedophile, sadist – and as we continue on this pathway, we will see more and more of this degradation of humanity.

The church is tolerant and becoming more tolerant.

10. Trucebreakers – vs. 3 – refuse to be bound by agreements—we don't keep our word

Can't trust anyone, including church-going people

11. False accusers – they become “slanderers” and try to tear down the reputations of others.

Youth talking negatively about other youth; adults saying things they should not—without remorse.

Gossip is often thought of as being harmless, but it is unkind, harmful, ungodly, and divisive.

Gossip is a sin and very destructive.

Gossips make a point of harming others.

Whether to promote their own interests, to express jealousy or hatred, to vent their anger, or to be in on “the know,” they take pleasure in damaging reputations and destroying lives.

False accuser translates *diabolos* – we get our English word “diabolical”

Diabolos means “accuser” and is used 34 times in the New Testament as a title for Satan.

False accusers do the very work of Satan.

12. Incontinent means “without self-control.”

Exercising no restraint upon themselves in any way.

Jesus told them in Matthew 23:25, “*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.*” – that’s our word . . .

The motto of our society today is “Do our own thing in excess!”

Without self-control describes the person who has jettisoned their inhibitions and shame—many church people run off to destinations such as Las Vegas, Daytona Beach, Cozumel.

They go wild—they go to these places and let loose—let their hair down, so to speak.

Like a driverless car, a person loses control of his own life and becomes a slave to his passions and ambitions.

This lack of self-control reveals itself in a number of ways.

13. Fierce means “untamed, brutal”—especially in our speech.

Church people can be brutal/without mercy

Fierce means savage.

You ought to play on the ball diamond/court with some of these people—no mercy—
forget their testimony

Self-love makes a person insensitive, malicious, and eventually brutal.

They sink to an animal level.

14. Despisers of those that are good – hostile toward that which is virtuous.

Isaiah 5:20, *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”*

They despise what is good and honor what is evil.

In the church today, the standards of right and wrong have been twisted and turned
upside down

15. Traitors – describes people who betray others and cannot be trusted.

Judas Iscariot is an example of this.

Neither friendship nor partnership makes any difference to them; they lie and break their
promises whenever doing so helps them get their own way.

Lovers of self eventually become **treacherous**, turning against even their own
families, friends, and church members.

Treachery comes naturally to a person who loves money, who is boastful and arrogant,
ungrateful and unholy, unloving, a slanderer who has lost self-control, and who is
brutal and hates what is good.

16. Heady – headstrong – means “acting without careful thought.”

The **heady** person is reckless, careless, negligent, and rash.

The self-centered person is so preoccupied with his own interests that he simply does not notice people and things around him that are not related to his concerns.

17. High-minded means a person who is “puffed up” with his importance—pompous. “Conceited” is a good synonym.

It goes without saying that the self-lover is conceited, having a much higher view of himself than is justified.

The root meaning is “being enveloped in smoke,” so that what is outside one’s circumscribed world of self cannot be seen.

Romans 12:3, *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”*

18. Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God

Personal pleasure is paramount in their lives—loving entertainment more than loving God.

The cry of first-century Rome was “give us bread and the circus”

19. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof

II Timothy 3:5

In verses 2-4, we have the moral condition described of a perilous time.

But beginning in verse 5a—form of Godliness, but no power, no spiritual energy—that is a remarkable combination.

Charlatans of religion

Vs. 5

Form comes from *morphsis*, which refers to outward shape and appearance, such as that of a silhouette.

They are religious fakes, phonies who masquerade as Christians.

They hold to a form of Godliness, that is, an outline of Christianity, but without substance, makes them all the more dangerous, because immature members in the church will accept their paganized Christianity as the true faith.

Just because a business says that they are Christian and just because a building is called a church does not mean that is what they are.

Many Christians and churches are powerless in their communities—they are impotent.

Titus 1:16 – profession and performance should not contradict.

They go through the rituals of religion but lack life and reality.

Vs. 5 – **from such turn away** means that the believer is to avoid them, having nothing to do with them

Let me ask you a question: If you are in a dead, cold, liberal church, and you are a true believer, what are you doing there when the Word of God says to avoid those things?

All across this country, there are wonderful churches, pastors, church people who are faithfully following and living the Word of God.

Why aren't we supporting and standing with these folks?

This is part of our culture.

This is the kind of generation we are living in and we are the children of this culture.

It is almost impossible not to be influenced by this.

None of these 19 things should be said of us or characterize us.

These 19 characteristics are anti-God and anti-Church.

Living in this world

Let us stand for closing invitation.

My dear church people—

We live in a wicked society, but the church world we find ourselves in is described for us
in II Timothy 3.

It is so easy for us to see mainstream Christianity and desire to fall into that river.

It is self-pleasing and pleasurable.

But God's way is discipline, self-control, holy living

Do we love pleasures more than God?

Do we really love God with all heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Let's turn our heart toward home.

Let's be what the Bible prescribes for us to be.

First of all, we must be saved from our sins.

Contrary to much preaching today, we are wicked people—all sinners in need of the
Savior.

Second, as believers—were we described by any of those characteristics found in this
chapter?

If so, let us repent.