

II Timothy, Sermon #20

II Timothy 3:1 – Isn't it great to be in the Word of God!

II Timothy 3:1, "*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*"

Then the Bible describes to us how we will know if we are in a perilous time—if religious people are characterized by verses 2-9.

Last time, we looked in detail at every characteristic—all 19 of them in vs. 2-5—and we pick up our study today in verse 6.

I've entitled this entire series "Living in This World" (Part 4)

II Timothy 3:6

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

II Timothy 3:6-9

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Living in This World

God gave Timothy two imperatives to obey in order that we might be successful in perilous times.

Fathers and mothers—if we don’t get this—we will set our kids up for failure. Our country is confused when it comes to the Bible and the practice of it and it’s getting worse.

The first imperative is at the end of verse 5: From such religious people, turn away
The Bible says for us to have nothing to do with these people, their churches, or their ministries

#1 – first imperative – turn away from these kinds of people – vs. 5

Notice – these people operate under the guise of religion
They are religious, but rebellious—they have a form/they may be sincere.
But their character and their ministries are opposite/contrary to the Word of God.

Vs. 6 begins to show how pervasive and captivating people like this can be.
They will have converts – vs. 6a & b – they will capture people – (they will have success; in fact, they will be very successful)

II Timothy 4:3-4 – religious people fulfilling their own flesh with church services—almost all Christian things today have a great part of the world in them.
Flocks will exist/converts will be numerous to the world’s religion

These people and what they represent creep/sneak into houses (vs. 6)—by TV, by books, through Oprah Winfrey (she promotes a religion); “sneak in”

They “worm their way in” into the home—literally the family and particularly the woman (vs. 6)—and soon control people’s lives.

Then this worldly religion is brought to the church and, if not stopped—church leaders are not mature and Biblical—this philosophy decimates the church

These people and their beliefs come in with the idea of stealth and, therefore, of creeping in undetected.

Do you know why it is undetected?

Because the mind is not trained enough to see it—the individual is not Biblical enough to discern what's right and what's wrong, and before long, a church that was on the right track will be on the wrong track.

1 – missions

2 – evangelism – drawing a crowd

3 – discipleship

The favorite target is silly/foolish women who are weighed down with sins—women who are already loaded up with sins (gossip, materialism)—and are especially vulnerable/leadable.

Oftentimes, the men are consumed with things with no spiritual intake and instead of being the leader in spiritual matters, he has abdicated his role and she is taken in.

The husband is providing no spiritual protection, and oftentimes, the men of the church are doing the same—providing no leadership or protection

So Satan continues to target women as his initial captives—just as he targeted Eve. This man-focused religion is able to gain an allegiance and a following.

Listen, cults not only are often spawned by women, but women are the most numerous and devout adherents.

People fall into these traps especially women—because they are pleasing to the flesh.

Vs. 2, 3, 4—are all about self—give the church people what they want, make it palatable, and they will swallow it, and call it “good.”

Vs. 7

Such people are always learning and never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

They are always searching for truth, trying this approach and that; yet they are never able to be satisfied—fads in religion.

This is a reason for the mass confusion in religious circles.

Knowledge – refers to a good understanding and comprehension.

Ephesians 4:11, “*And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.*”

Everyone has an opinion on how the church is to be run—fractured people

I Timothy 2:4-6, “*Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*”

The Gospel is mixed up.

Let's say I went out and knocked on doors and I found ten religious people and asked them, “How do you know you are going to Heaven?”

How many religious people are going to end up in Hell?

They know not Him Who is the Truth.

That is the confusion we have today.

Three college students this week: questions on speaking in tongues, eternal security, baptism regeneration

Ever learning – reading all kinds of books except the Bible itself; going to all kinds of seminars and coping groups, yet not receiving the straight Word of God.

Another aspect of these religious people is illustrated for us in verse 8.

Vs. 8 – who were these men? They were Egyptian magicians.

Exodus 7-9 gives the record of the contest between Moses and the Egyptian magicians—10 plagues.

When Aaron's rod turned into a snake; the magicians' rods turned into snakes
Moses turned the water into blood; the magicians turned the water into blood.
Moses brought up the frogs—the magicians did the same.

Moses kept going but they could not.

Jannes and Jambres were exposed and found counterfeits.

The danger is Jannes and Jambres could demonstrate some things—they had some clout, in other words.

We would never have known the names of these magicians if God hadn't given them to us here in the New Testament.

The Bible says they withheld Moses (vs. 8)—they opposed him.

Now, look at verse 8 – **so do these** – referring to the people of vs. 2-7
What do these people do? Resist the Truth, oppose the Truth

These men opposed Moses by imitating what he did—yet, their source of power was not God

The religious person of vs. 2-9—his source of power is his own flesh/his own mind and the world's ways of thinking.

This is good because it brings people to church.

So, we have many religious people imitating the “real deal” and God says—you may look the part, but in essence, you are contrary to Me and My Truth. You’re either for Me or against Me.

These religious people will have a counterfeit faith, and their purpose is to promote a lie.

And most of these lies are often half-truths—some Bible mixed with pop culture, psychology, positive thinking, or false religion

We have a great deal of “pseudo-Christianity” which is a mixture of psychology, success motivation, personality, cults, with a little bit of Bible thrown in to make it look wholesome.

What is mixed in is what destroys people

Vs. 8 – they resist the truth of God’s Word – they deny the Bible

They pick and choose what portions of the Bible they will follow—they delete what they don’t want, and they dilute what they can’t bear

★In their attempt to be credible and yet acceptable to the public, they deny the reality of sin, the depravity of man, and the way of salvation in Christ alone★

The most serious and lamentable aspect of such rejection of God and His Word is that the danger comes from *within* the church.

Vs. 8d

They have become corrupted and are reprobate.

“Reprobate concerning the faith” means that they have discarded the faith—rejected the faith.

Vs. 9

This verse is a great promise to God's people.

God's people will win out:

- The cancer on the church will not kill the church
- Sooner or later, their foolishness becomes obvious

We must realize we are in a fight, in a battle. We must practice, like the Bereans in Acts 17:11 – They searched the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so or not.

Deceptions will only get worse; to the extent that it brings the Anti-Christ to be seated in Jerusalem. The whole world will go after him, but the Anti-Christ will be defeated.

The attacks on God, the Bible and His Church will continue and will increase.

These attacks come from all angles and sides.

So difficult will it be that we don't know which side to defend.

We all know that ground has been taken from believers – the public schools, the courts, the government, even the churches.

From where we were to where we are today – true believers are being squeezed and swallowed up in society.

Parents, look at your kids:

- How important is it that Mom and Dad love God, love the Bible, and each other?
- How important is it that we live a life of faith in God and in His Word?

Their times will be most likely worse for them; we must give to them the tools and truth to stand no matter what.

Vs. 10 – is the transition

Timothy, you know who I am and what I've taught—don't be taken in by any spoiled religion.

Living in this world

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Are we being enticed by so-called spiritual things that are pleasing to our flesh?

Do we allow people access to our lives who love pleasure more than God?

Are we turning away from the world's religions—the mixes of Christianity and the self?

Are we able to discern that which is just OK and that which is excellent?

Maybe you are here and you have never trusted Christ, the Mediator—the only Mediator—the One that bleed and died for our sins.