

II Timothy 3:1-9
The Last Days

Terrible Times (1-5) ***We are living in these times, some things we are accustomed to***

Pleasure pursued: ***Pursuing self, money, power & pleasure – our culture***

The love of the world (I John 2:15-17) ***Opposite of loving the Father***

Adultery with the world (James 4:4-6) ***seeking to befriend the world***

Highly valued by the world (Luke 16:11-15) ***detestable to God***

Pride practiced: ***‘PRIDE’ week? – we applaud self-esteem and pride***

The foolishness of idols (Isaiah 44:16-20) ***They are man’s creation***

The top of God’s hate list (Proverbs 6:16-19) ***A haughty spirit***

The example of the enemy (Isaiah 14:12-15 / Ezekiel 28:17) ***Satan’s downfall***

Pretense put forth: ***claim to know God (Titus 1:16)***

Saying one thing and doing another (II Peter 2:13) ***In our midst (Acts 20:30)***

Seducing others through the desires of the flesh (II Peter 2:18-19)

“A little sin (indulgence) never hurt anyone” “You deserve it”

Truth Twisters (6-9) ***It sounds right on the surface***

Sneaking their way in (Jude 3-4) ***Pretend and seek favor of those in leadership***

Swayed by ungodly sources (Romans 12:2 / Ephesians 4:17-19) ***cultural influence***

Emotionally driven (I Peter 1:13-16) ***not tested with a mind focused on Him***

Experientially driven (I Thessalonians 5:20-22) ***testing the spirits***

Standing to opposition ***boldly staying true to Jesus***

To the TRUTH (John 8:42-47; 18:37-38) ***Knowing the enemy lies***

To the Faithful (II Corinthians 11:12-15 / Galatians 4:16-17; 5:11-12)

On guard against pretenders and those who bring division

Discussion questions for II Timothy 3:1-9

What are your expectations for the days ahead? How do they compare with Scripture? (Matthew 24 / Luke 21 / II Timothy 3:1-5 / Amos 8:11-12 / II Peter 3:3-4 / Jude 17-19)

While we can be hopeful for the short term, the Scripture is clear as to what lies ahead. As the teaching and influence of Scripture becomes more & more rare, godless people and ideas will be propagated throughout our culture. God will pour out His wrath on the godless nations of the world – we are looking for His call to take us home.

Why is 'PRIDE' on the top of God's hate list? (Isaiah 2:11; 13:11 / Psalm 10:4 / Proverbs 16:18 / James 4:6) ***It leads us away from our dependence upon God. Without Him we have no ability to guard against our flesh and our sinful hearts. That the creature would shake his fist at the Creator is absurd – He offer every chance for us to repent and turn – but pride keeps us away. Pride leads to every other sin and thus to our destruction.***

How do false teachers 'sneak' into the church? What safeguards should be in place to protect God's flock? (II Corinthians 11:13-15 / III John 9-11 / Acts 20:26-32 / I Timothy 5:22-25) ***They pretend to be something they are not. They seek to impress others, especially leaders. They learn to say the 'right' words and deceitfully appear to do the 'right' things. We must never be hasty to give someone leadership responsibility, knowing that godless people can appear to be righteous ministers. Those in leadership must continually examine themselves and be on guard against wolves in sheep's clothing.***

Why are emotionally or experientially driven responses not trustworthy? How have we seen the enemy use these in our culture and in the church? (Jeremiah 17:9 / Exodus 7:8-12) ***Our hearts are deceitful and cannot be trusted – everything must be tested by the Scriptures. The enemy can bring counterfeit signs and miracles (II Thessalonians 2:9). While emotions and experiences are a part of our walk with God – we must always be on our guard, testing everything against the clear teaching of the word of God.***

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The top of God's hate list (Proverbs 6:16-19)
The example of the enemy (Isaiah 14:12-15 / Ezekiel 28:17)

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