

**Second Timothy 3:8 – 17**

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~ We live in a day when it will cost us something to be a genuine child of God – and that something is everything. Jesus saith, “*he who loveth his life shall surely lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal*” – John chapter twelve verse twenty-five. That premise renders this Spiritual Safari Bible study program quite unpopular. Sound doctrine taught correctly is not popular; it is utterly contrary to human philosophy. Genuine Christianity that teaches the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as the only path to salvation has always elicited hate; but, today, living by sound doctrinal principles is reaching next-level rankings of intolerance. All who will live Godly for the Lord Jesus Christ suffer today, friends. Now, there is a false, modern, American, liberal Jesus that is widely accepted in our religio-politico world of heresy. Their Jesus permits them to live and do and say whatever they want to, and winks at their sins. But their Jesus is a myth. The Living Jesus of Holy Writ judges and condemns sin; and He is more unpopular in our contemporary hyper-religious world than He was during His earthly ministry.

Well, this Spiritual Safari desires to know nothing except Christ, and Him crucified. We still have an opportunity for a relationship with Christ if we will avail ourselves of learning the Bible properly, correctly and completely – but that window is closing fast, friends. Some people in this world are not going to be afforded an opportunity much longer in this age of grace; because the true and living church isn’t going to be around much longer. It simply cannot be otherwise. In fact, my personal belief is that the true, genuine church of Christ Jesus will be gone – and the rapture will be complete – within one hundred years. Now, I could certainly be wrong about that time frame – but – I don’t think I am. In fact, I think it may even be *sooner* than later because we are rapidly moving into an orbit of perilously desperate days; times in which every man is doing that which is right in his own eyes, twisting all truth into abject error. These are the days of apostasy – they are upon us now; and the apostasy we see happening is

going to get worse – not better. I pray that these Bible studies make you dear readers stronger in your faith and more learned in the Word of God....

***8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.***

~ Jannes and Jambres are the names of the two magicians that Pharaoh called on when Moses began pronouncing the plagues upon Egypt. Remember, the first three plagues Moses brought upon the land were imitated by the magicians. However, when they realized the Hand of God was upon them, they could no longer duplicate the miracles. Interestingly, we would never have known the names of these magicians if Paul hadn't told us. Naturally, that opens a flood gate of speculation, and my question is, "*where did Paul get their names?*" I think the simple and reasonable answer is that their names were revealed to Paul by the Spirit of God out there on that Arabian Desert. Of course, there were other documents that do not appear in the canons of Scripture. Either way, knowing their names doesn't add much of anything to our learning in this report. But it does personalize the matter; and it brings reality to the magicians in Egypt. This presents them as real people with real lives and real names.

***Exodus 7:10*** ....*Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. 11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. 13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said ~*

Satan has a supernatural power in this world today, my beloved. Make no mistake about that. The devil is a formidable foe as an imitator. Satan imitates the things that God does. Moses and Aaron did these things by the power of the True and Living God. Jannes and Jambres did their works by the power of Satan. In *MANY* places today there is the manifestation of the power of Satan disguised as the power of God – and many, many – *MANY* – people are being deceived by false teachers who love money, are extremely

covetous, and who deny the Lord Jesus Christ *by worshipping* God. Yes, you read that right. The liberal has two ways of getting rid of Christ Jesus: one, by denying Him – and the other is by worshipping Him. Of course, it is a false, polluted, blasphemous worship of the aforementioned false, liberal, American Jesus – but it is absolutely effective at deceiving a lost, sick world, too. See, the liberal has figured out that a flat denial of God won't work anymore; so they deliberately teach it in error, and provide a sweet, comfortable, doctrine of loving others at all cost, and create a world that can be a very pleasant place to go straight to hell in.

John told us to try the Spirit and see if it be of God – or not. That's something we very definitely need to do today. It can only be done in much prayer, and accompanied by a proper, correct and complete Bible study that you have prayed for the Lord to lead you to, my friends. There is no other way. We are to turn away from men who resist the truth. The false teachers are men of corrupt minds; reprobate and cast away. They know the truth but they have never accepted it. They have discarded the faith and reject it totally.

Then, there are those who say things, such as, “...*I used to believe as you do, Andrew....*” Well, if those men once believed as I do, then they have left their first love. Jesus says to those men, “...*thou hast left thy first love....repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent*” — Revelation chapter two. Frankly, I don't believe they once believed what I believe! Either way, we have men today who appear to be great men of God, but all they ever try to do is disprove the Word of God. They try to disprove that salvation can never be lost, for example. Others try to disprove Christ's teaching about money and riches. Of course, they never disprove anything – but they ultimately end up proving they are liars by their heresies. They say they love everyone; but they don't even like Andrew C. Hunt. They always insist they can teach me something – but they never seem to get around to it. So, they accuse me of being unteachable....

***9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.***

~ The truths we are mining in our Spiritual Safari in this section of Scripture are mind-bogglingly tremendous lessons that cannot be denied. You can dabble and dabble in the Bible all you want to; but, hear me carefully: you're playing with something that is extremely dangerous and you *WILL* get burned if you mishandle the Word of God. In this day of crass materialism, it is a strange anomaly to many people that Satan is so hazardously supernatural – because they tend to deny the supernatural altogether. Well, it's real – very real – as real as sunshine, in fact. See, Timothy knew Paul the apostle very well. Timothy was well aware of Paul's persecutions and afflictions. Timothy also knew what Paul taught because Paul's life was an open book. Our Christian lives ought to be open books, also....

***10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,***

***11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.***

***12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***

~ At Lystra, Paul was stoned and left for dead. I believe Paul actually *was* dead and God restored him back to life. It was dangerous to be a Christian in Paul's day. What I see passing as "*Christianity*" today is not impressive to me at all. While it seems as if many are turning to the Lord – they aren't. I don't see many people suffering with the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't see many people suffering persecution; and I don't see much Godly living, either. Honest, sincere, educated Bible teaching is what's missing. The dispensation of sound doctrine is utterly stifled – *MOSTLY BY THE CHURCH*. I understand the liberal media and worldly organizations restraining and suppressing the Word of God – because they love money; but, when the church asphyxiates and suffocates the teaching of the Scriptures by the man who loves Christ, obeys Christ, loves the Word of God and teaches the Bible properly, correctly and completely – then that church is going to close its doors. You can just write that down. What will remain is a liberal church

that perverts and pollutes the truth – but never saves anyone – and they will rejoice in doing so. Tragic.

Today, if a preacher commits a crime, the church will forgive that man and treat his wrongdoing as a testimony of returning to the faith. If a man teaches the Bible in an educated, sincere, systematic and responsible manner, in the sound doctrine of the apostles, most churches will slander his name, ruin his reputation, and usher him out the back door. That's what's real, my friends. That's where we're at in this world. I know many people read these reports and believe I am negative, have a bad attitude, and that I am a cynical fatalist. Well, I'm just teaching the Bible. If you think I am wrong, then, guess what? – it just so happens to be *Y-O-U* who is wrong; because Holy Writ is never wrong. If you think I am wrong, pray the Holy Spirit will straighten me out....

***13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.***

***14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;***

***15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***

~ Alright, as our Spiritual Safari ends another tremendously punishing leg in the dark jungles of reality in our expedition through the entire Word of God, we come out at a clearing where the sun is shining and we can see our Blessed Hope clearly once again! The believer has a wonderful recourse back to God by knowledge of the Scriptures. The Word of God is the *ONLY* source of help for believers in these days of apostasy. "*Unto salvation*" in verse fifteen does not necessarily mean "*getting saved*" – or the moment of salvation; because Timothy was already saved at the time in which we are studying. His mother and grandmother – and Paul – had all taught him the Word of God. So, this has a much wider meaning and includes the life that emanates from being saved – past, present and future. We have been saved – we are being saved – and we shall be saved. This is Christian living,

my dear readers. The Scriptures give both the modus operandi and the modus vivendi for Christian living....

***16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:***

~ “All scripture” means every passage of Scripture is given by inspiration of God — it is God-breathed. Not only is Scripture God-breathed, it is profitable. “Doctrine” is teaching. “Reproof” is conviction. “Correction” is setting right. “Instruction” is discipline. I firmly believe the Word of God is the only help any of us have anymore. The Bible makes us wise in how we are to live down here – IF – IF – IF we understand it correctly and divide it properly and completely. That means from Genesis to Revelation; not just the pieces and parts we like to hear or the fractured passages and recklessly misquoted verses that support some personal world-view theory we want to live by.

The men God chose to use to write the Bible were not merely pens that were picked up and employed. No, God used their personalities – character flaws and all – to express the things of Christ in their own personal thought patterns – and in their own words; yet still clearly conveyed His message of love. God has given us His Word now. The Bible is to be taught. The Lord has nothing else to say to us today except what is written here. If God opened Heaven and spoke audibly through the sky – or in a dream – or in a vision – HE WOULD QUOTE THE BIBLE. The most sincere child of God doesn’t understand a fraction of what God has already said. So, the Lord isn’t going to add to that, my friends – not yet. This is it. If you aren’t prepared to accept *this* teaching, then God has nothing else to say to you. So, we’ll continue in our next report with chapter four....

***17 That the man of God may be fully mature, throughly furnished unto all good works ~***

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