

All That Will Live Godly

Second Timothy 3:1 – 12

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~ Our Spiritual Safari invites you to take a few minutes today to join our expedition through the entire Word of God; and read a message God has prepared specifically for you in this report. We are examining the contents of the epistle the apostle Paul wrote to his spiritual son Timothy. If you will read this section of Scripture in your Bible *AFTER* praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and then read this report – I promise you the report God has commissioned me to convey to you will be very meaningful to your heart.

This third chapter brings us a prediction of the coming apostasy; and, remember, this is Paul's swan song, written from a Roman Mamertine prison, as he awaits the execution of his death sentence at the hands of madman Nero. That's when the Holy Spirit spoke to his heart regarding apostasy. Of course, the Spirit of God was giving Paul the antidote for said apostasy – which is doctrinally sound inspirational information that would, ultimately, become the Word of God. If you do not find that important truth remarkable, then you do not understand what you are reading....

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

~ Alright, Paul says this is important for us to know, also. Verses one through seven are what Timothy was to expect in the future of the church. The churches future, obviously, wasn't bright in the days which we are studying; so, you can imagine the reality of the condition of the organized church as I type this report and as you read it. The "*last days*" is a technical term used in several places in the New Testament. It speaks of the conclusion of the age of grace, and refers to the time immediately preceding the rapture - the removal of the true and living church from the earth. Now, I believe we are in the last days today; but it is important to remember that, according to Paul, we've been in these last days for two thousand plus years now.

Further, the "*last days*" of the church in the New Testament are entirely different from the "*last days*" of the nation Israel found in the Old Testament. The "*last days*" from an Old Testament perspective, often called "*the time of the end*" or the "*end of the age*," refers to the Great Tribulation period. The New Testament perspective of the "*last days*" of the true and living church are altogether different; and, as I said, refers to the time immediately before the removal of the church in the rapture.

These are critical Bible facts to comprehend considering Paul further advised the Ephesians that, after his death, grievous wolves would come in and not spare the flock. Well, just take a look around this forum on which I teach and you'll find endless, myriad, nauseating Bible noise that never even comes close to teaching the Word of God properly, correctly and completely. It's just so much blah. Those false teachers spend endless hours fleecing the sheep, destroying their faith, making merchandise of Christ, and eating the sheep.

Personally, I believe that, unless a pastor gives the sheep something, we have no right to ask them for anything in return. Of course, the workman is worthy of his hire. Paul says clearly, "*pay your preacher.*" If that man is a blessing to you, then you have an obligation to support him. But God makes the rich and the poor. So, we must account for that. Moreover, we are only to give to the place where we receive a blessing. I think that's more than reasonable; and it is Scriptural. One does not go to the market and pick up a bunch of groceries, and then go to another market to pay for them.

Someone says, *“that’s absurd.”* It sure is absurd, friends; it’s as absurd as most of what I see passing for Christian giving today. It’s entirely wrong; and I realize I have gone somewhat off-topic – but it just happens to be personal to me – and this matter of giving directly ties in with apostasy.

Alright, Paul says, *“grievous and hard times”* are coming. Well, that doesn’t sound like the conversion of the world to me. It isn’t a pep talk for Timothy, either. No. The church isn’t building a kingdom; and the church isn’t going to bring in the millennium, either. In fact, this church is going to leave the world in an unconverted state and – that’s it – total and complete apostasy will ensue. Of course, the organized liberal church will continue just as they ever have. There are many churches that will meet the Sunday after the rapture and won’t be missing a single member. The conversion of the world is a pipe dream of idealists; and that idea was originally set forth by the World Council of Churches in 1958. Frankly, one has to live like an ostrich with their head in the sand to subscribe to that theory. It’s simply unrealistic – not to mention unbiblical.

Verses two through five present nineteen (19) ugly words and phrases used to describe the last days of the church. This may be the most accurate picture presented in Scripture of the church in this present hour. Most of you dear readers know that I adamantly believe Scriptural prophecy is not being fulfilled today. I have said the stage is being set for the prophetic future; but I have insisted – and still do – that the wheels of prophecy do not turn today. Setting dates and timelines is absolutely reckless and irresponsible; and there is no Scriptural basis on which to do so. However, these nineteen things mentioned here certainly have appeared! In previous church history, some of these things have been true; but, today, I have personally witnessed each and every one manifest in one church or another in varying shapes and forms. So, with that in mind, let’s examine Paul’s prophetic descriptions of the apostasy.

(1) “Lovers of their own selves” – should be self-explanatory. People today love themselves in a way that is positively shameful. This truth is in evidence in every counterpart of contemporary culture on every continent and in every country of the world. Modern psychology insists we do so. In fact, some modern psychiatrists will advise you to wake up and look in the

mirror and say to your image, *"I love you. You deserve the best of everything"* Well, men don't need to be told to do that; they worship themselves all day long – and insist others do, too. This holds true from the celebrity star in Hollywood to the corrupt politician in Washington to the church members in the back pew. Anyone who agrees with them is praised and congratulated for being a super-duper outstanding person that the Lord couldn't possibly live without. Those who disagree are ridiculed, insulted, and told they aren't saved - in the nastiest ways. Malicious gossip follows. Well, my friends, Jesus said, *"he who loves his life shall surely lose it."* If you think that's out of context, then I would appreciate you writing to me and explaining what you believe the proper context is; but don't con the text attempting to do so. I am going to respond to all comments. People are sinners, friends; they're not wonderful.

(2) "Covetous" – specifically, and foremost, means *"lovers of money."* Loving money leads to loving yourself – trust me on that. I don't guess at these things I teach, friends. I sure don't make them up as I go. I teach from personal experience. Every sentence I write reflects that which has happened to me, or to someone close to me in a personal way. Our old natures loves to have money spent on it. Let's be honest with ourselves here for a moment, shall we? Well, the love of money is the root of all evil. Naturally, money, in and of itself, can be a wonderful spiritual blessing; provided it is used for the work of the Lord, and to glorify Christ. Unfortunately, I see very few – and I do mean *VERY* few – Christians using their money that way today. When we go into the presence of the Lord, He is going to have but two questions for us about money: (a) where did you get it, and (b) how did you use it? Covetousness reveals itself in the acquisition of money as well as the use of it. This is, undeniably, a *HUGE* problem today – both in the business world and in the church.

(3) "Boasters" – this has the idea of a proud look in it. Pride is revealed in many people just by the way they walk or dress. Strutting around like a male peacock or a female kitten ties right in with:

(4) "Proud" – that means haughty. These are almost always people that are:

(5) “Blasphemers” – who complain incessantly about everything; and denounce everything else – except themselves, of course. They can find fault in *ANYTHING* and they always get in other people’s business. Naturally, they are:

(6) “Disobedient” – they never obeyed their parents; and, to be fair, they likely never had any meaningful discipline in their homes from their parents, either. We have a whole generation of literally lost children today. Those people will always be:

(7) “Unthankful” – they hate everything. Everything is a waste of time to them. They accept things from others with no thought of gratitude whatsoever. They demand entitled priority and are:

(8) “Unholy” – meaning profane and offensive to others. I don’t think I need to belabor the point regarding the language that goes around society today. These people are actually against God in their conversation. Some of them never miss a single Sunday at church, either. These people are:

(9) “Without natural affections” – their relationships are always abnormal, perverted, selfish and deviant. This encompasses homosexuality; and many other sins that are accepted as “okay” in the church today, too. Well, read through Romans chapter one in this connection. Paul says *THREE TIMES* in Romans chapter one that “... *God gave them up.*” That is in direct connection with sexual sins. When God says something *three times* in one chapter, I have to believe He means exactly what He said, my beloved. The homosexual and others without natural affection cannot help but being:

(10) “Trucebreakers” – you cannot trust that ilk with anything for a nanosecond. You will never get along with those people because they won’t let you get along with them. They are utterly irreconcilable; and once they begin to dislike you because you are a Christian with doctrinally sound beliefs about sexual perversion, they immediately become:

(11) “False accusers” – I could go into a depth of detail here that would require ten written reports minimum on the topic; but I won’t. These people attack me constantly, and they are:

(12) "Incontinent" – meaning, they have no self-control; and their attacks on me are:

(13) "Fierce" – brutal, savage and without merit. They never attack my teaching, but they have no compunction attacking me personally. Ironically, they wouldn't know me from Adam if they crashed their car into me – but they think they know me. Candidly, I am amazed at the length some people who purport to be Christians will go to with ad hominem attacks in an attempt to divert the conversation away from the truth of the Word of God; but, I digress, sort of. Of course, they are:

(14) "Despisers of those who are good" – they simply hate that which is right. They call evil good and good evil. That thinking is everywhere; and those who do so are:

(15) "Traitors" – and they will betray your trust and the family of God without thinking twice. They are:

(16) "Heady" – reckless with theology, and:

(17) "High-minded" – drunk with pride. It's usually frightening to look upon their self-conduct, particularly when they *don't* consume alcohol.

(18) "Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" – which takes us right back to the beginning of the list. They will *ALWAYS* have:

(19) "A form of godliness but deny the power thereof" – they insist that the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross is not adequate to keep us saved. They have no regard for the Word of God. From such turn away, friends.

~ Each one of these polluted traits give birth to the others. If you have one – you will have them *ALL* – it is a malignant cancer. The only cure is to be born of water and of Spirit. So many people have been going to so-called Bible classes for years – even decades – and they listen to everyone who says anything and everything about the Bible; and they buy every word of

every false doctrine they hear. As a result, their life's philosophy becomes profoundly confused and hypocritical, and their thinking on certain matters changes from minute to minute - faster than a strobe-light illuminates. They remain perpetually ignorant of the Bible. They never mature in the Word of God or in the things of Christ. Their lives are never changed; they live and act exactly the same as they did before they found the vain, false, phony, dead and meaningless religion they are practicing. They are usually religious to their fingertips; but there is no reality of God in their lives. Their lives are never changed. Never in the history of the world has so much money been spent on religious entertainment, religious propaganda, and pleasure in worship – yet so little is given to supporting the entire Word of God going out to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. I'm not going to lie to you – because I never lie to you dear readers – these things disturb me greatly. All of these things characterize the cold, dead, visible, liberal, modern church today And Jesus saith to the church, “...
repent” ~

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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

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

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.

~ Well, as we end this grueling leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, I cannot leave you dear readers on such a doleful

note. We can all thank God there are still a few Bible-believing and Bible-teaching churches in the world. I happen to have one. I thank God every day that He gave it me. Even so, if we take a proper, correct, and complete stand for Christ Jesus, it is going to cost us something – and that something is going to be everything. Paul makes all of this as clear as the noonday sun; and we’re going to examine this truth ad inifinitum in our next report.

We are in a place today where you and I are going to be persecuted for our faith, friends; make no mistake about that. That’s not the wild-eyed statement or complaint from some podunk fundamental Bible teacher, either. In this world, it is becoming more and more unpopular to be a genuine child of God. The label “*Christian*” signals to the lost world they are dealing with a liar and hypocrite. I know that’s a damning indictment. Too bad, friends.

Soon, it *WILL* become dangerous. I *KNOW* that also sounds laughable to a fool; but we are seeing the entity known as “Christianity” near total and complete apostasy. How far are you willing to go for the Lord Jesus Christ? What are you willing to give up for the Word of God? This report should be sobering. Each of us should break down and ask God to search our heart and know our thoughts. Will God find iniquity in you if you allow Him to do that? I may not have a great answer to those questions, either; but I do want to serve the Lord. I love Jesus Christ. I respect Holy Writ. I want to see Jesus on every page of Scripture. I can only pray He will give me grace to complete this so-called Spiritual Safari....

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

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