

2 Timothy 3

2 Timothy 3.1-5

-*V 1-5* seems to be addressed primarily to men in leadership positions in the church

V 1– Explain the “last days” The New Testament dispensation

Read Acts 2.17, 1 Corinthians 10.11, Hebrews 1.1-2, James 5.3, 1 Peter 1.20, 1 John 2.18

V 2– “Lovers of self”? Selfish people

-**Why is this listed first?** It is the basic cause behind crime and wickedness and selfishness

-Other characteristics: *lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers* (loss of temper), *disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy* – we know people in all of these categories, don't we?

-**What is God's view about obeying one's parents?** Read Exodus 20.12 (#5), Deuteronomy 21.18-20

-For the safety of the church, young people must be taught to obey their parents

V 3– ...*unloving and irreconcilable* (demand to have their own way), *malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of God* (similar list from Paul in *Romans 1.29-32*)

-**Is our society “unloving” today?** Yes (abortion and euthanasia)

-We all know that in some businesses and companies the unions and management are “Irreconcilable” – They just cannot agree on things

-In many states, a divorce can be granted on "irreconcilable differences"

V 4– ...*treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*

-**Do we have conceited drivers on the roads today?** That last characteristic really summarizes our age today (road rage, tailgating, etc.)

-The good of the many is attacked by the few, so a few people can hold up benefits to millions and millions of people

V 5– ...*holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power*

-Blessing of pets in some denominational churches, sprinkling water on dogs to bless them

-It looks very religious, but it is an insult to God

-**Does that have an application today?** Many false religions claim to follow God, but do not do so

-They want to look religious, and they have the robes and candles and incense and everything else that looks religious, but it is all superficial and means nothing to God

-**The message to Timothy?** You would think that the Christian religion would change the world, but that is not going to happen, so be prepared for dealing with evil people

2 Timothy 3.6-9

V 6-7– addressed to women

V 6– Can women be led astray? Yes

-**How are they subject to being led astray?** By false teachers who enter households

-**Where are the husbands at this time?** Maybe out of town on trips or at work

-**Why do such women allow themselves to be led astray?** Idle, too much time, various impulses

-Do we have any congregation in the New Testament that was led astray by a woman? Yes – church at Thyatira (*Revelation 2.20*) – "Jezebel" caused a great deal of damage to the congregation

V 7 – Describe false teachers? Always studying, but not coming to the right conclusion

-There are some false teachers who claim to still be studying a certain issue, but they never reach a conclusion

V 8 – Who are Jannes and Jambres? The two magicians who tried to oppose Moses

-This is the only place in the Bible where the names of these two men can be found

-These names had been passed down through the centuries by the rabbis

- **Read Exodus 7.11-12, 22** – They also had magic snakes and could also turn water to blood

-**How were they able to turn water to blood?** With the power of Satan (*2 Thessalonians 2.11-12*)

-**What is Paul's point here?** That false teachers will oppose the truth in every generation (just as Jannes and Jambres did with Moses)

-**What does Paul say about the false teachers that Timothy was facing?** They had depraved minds

-**What would be the eternal outcome of these false teachers?** They would be rejected in regards to the faith (they would be lost eternally)

V 9 – Why would Paul say that the false teachers would ultimately lose? To encourage Timothy

- **Read Exodus 9.11** – (the fate of the magicians)

-Sometimes it looks bad (as it does at all congregations at some times), but even if false teachers take over, it is only in this life and only at certain locations

-Sometimes a member will ask if it wouldn't be better if the Lord's church had a headquarters here on earth someplace – a good question, but:

1. The Bible has not authorized headquarters on earth

2. If we had such a place, it could be taken over by false teachers, and the entire church would be led astray (as happens frequently in the denominational world)

-There are some great advantages to congregations being self-governed (autonomous)

-**How are we able to identify false teachers today?** With the Bible

-**Did the Lord ever warn us about false teachers?** Yes – **Read Matthew 7.15-20**

2 Timothy 3.10-17

V 10 – What did Paul remind Timothy of? The example which Paul had set before him

V 11 – What else did he remind Timothy of? The persecution Paul had endured

-**Where?** Antioch of Pisidia (*Acts 13.50*), Iconium (*Acts 14.5*), Lystra (*Acts 14.19*)

-**What was so amazing to Paul?** That the Lord had let him survive these persecutions

-We see military men with bars on chest from different battles and campaigns

-Paul had scars from these attempts at killing him – he had been through a lot

-**Read 2 Corinthians 11.22-29**

-*Galatians 6.17* – Paul had on his body the “brand-marks of Jesus” (scars from various times of persecution)

V 12 – Paul's conclusion about persecution? That if we are living righteous lives, we will be

persecuted

-Very important: if we are not being persecuted, then our lives are not distinctive enough

V 13 – Paul’s conclusion about false teachers? They will get worse

-Interesting: they would be deceived, and then they would deceive others

-This means that some false teachers may be sincere, but sincerely wrong

V 14 – Paul’s advice to Timothy concerning false teachers? Remember the things you have learned

-**Who had taught Timothy these things?** Not mentioned, but: Paul, Lois, Eunice, others

V 15 – What he had learned in childhood? The sacred writings (the Old Testament)

-Timothy had a good background in the Old Testament (and possibly some of the New Testament books that had been written by the time of his baptism)

-**What does Paul say about the sacred writings?** They will give us the wisdom that leads us to eternal salvation

V 16 – How did Paul describe the Scriptures? Inspired by God (breathed into by the Holy Spirit)

-**What is the Bible good for?** Teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness

-**Is the New Testament included in word “Scriptures”?** Yes – **Read 2 Peter 3.16**

V 17 – *The man of God adequately furnished...* – **Is the Bible the only revelation we have from God (a trick question)? No**

- **Read Romans 1.18-20** – God has revealed some things about himself in the natural world

-**How does the Bible help a person?** Equips him for every good work (nature cannot do that)

-This verse rules out other “gospels” – **Read Galatians 1.6-9 and Jude 3**

-**What is the relationship between what Paul said about false teachers (v 1-9) and the encouragement to Timothy (v 10-17)?** We refute false teachers with the Scriptures

Question from this chapter:

-**What words of encouragement did Paul give to Timothy in this chapter?**

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