

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

Good morning and welcome. We're so glad that you're joining us online. This is our second service. We have two services on Sunday morning, the first of which is our Bible Prophecy update, and the second is the verse-by-verse study through the Bible. We're going through the Bible book by book and chapter by chapter, and we are in the book of 2 Timothy. Our text today will be chapter 3. Lord willing, we'll make it through to verse 5, so we'll invite you at this time to join with us and turn there if you're not there already.

While you're doing that, I want to mention a couple of things. First of all, if you haven't, we'd encourage you to check out our new website at [JDFarag.org](http://JDFarag.org). Please know that this is a work in progress. We're adding to it, working on it, and really appreciate your patience with us and prayers for us because there's quite a bit. We're hoping, Lord willing, here soon to launch Phase 2.

We appreciate your prayers and your prayers concerning the relocation of the cell antennas on our building. We are just going to continue to make this appeal and ask you to pray as often as the Lord puts it on your heart and reminds you. Specifically, they will find a new location for the antennas and remove them from our building so we can get the repairs done to the building from the water damage and the leaks in the roof. We have done everything we can legally, per the lease. We've crossed every T, dotted, every legal I, so to speak. Again, per the lease, the termination of the lease, and now we're just going to commit it to the Lord and trust that the Lord will get those antennas off.

One last thing before we get started, I want to let you know that I will be taking a couple of weeks off, and my Assistant Pastor, Pastor Mac, will be filling in for me. I will be here on Thursday night, which is Christmas Eve, and we are going to live stream our Christmas Eve service this Thursday at 7:30 PM Hawaii time. So, you might want to join us if you're able, and we certainly encourage you to do so. I will be back, Lord willing, I emphasize Lord willing, on Sunday, January 10th.

All right, let's get to it. 2 Timothy, Chapter 3, beginning in verse 1. If you're able, I'll ask you to stand. If not, where you're seated is fine. You can follow along as I read. The Apostle Paul is writing to Timothy and by the Holy Spirit, says, verse 1, "But mark this: There will be terrible times [perilous times] in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self/control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness [verse 5] but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people."

Let's pray if you would join with me, please. Loving Heavenly Father, we stand before You, readily admitting that we have a text before us today that requires that the Holy Spirit open the eyes of our understanding. Lord, the intensity, the strength of this passage is such that I think it warrants our undivided attention, and we need the Holy Spirit to help us focus so we don't get distracted. Lord, we don't want to miss anything that You have for us today, and we need for You, desperately need for You at such a time as this to speak into our lives and minister to us. So, Lord, will you? Speak, Your servants are listening. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen and Amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

I chose to title today's teaching "Terrible Times," and this for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that it is an apt description of these, the last days, that we're living in today. Actually, truth be known, the title of "Terrible Times" is in some ways an understatement given the meaning of this word in the original language of the Greek New Testament. This word translated terrible, or as some of your translations render it perilous or fierce, is the word that is used to describe two demon-possessed men.

We have the account in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 8, verse 28. We're told, "When He [speaking of Jesus], arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs [How creepy is that?] met Him. They were so violent [same word, treacherous, perilous, terrible] that no one could pass that way."

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

I wanted to begin this way because it will be germane to our understanding of what Paul is writing here. The word for terrible or violent here in Matthew 28 carries with it the idea of fearful, dangerous, fierce, perilous, and dare I say insane, demonic. That's - hello! That's what we're living in today; this day, the last days, is today. This is exactly what's happening.

Now, I point this out because the Apostle Paul lists 19 characteristics that will mark the last days, and the mark, the characteristic of the last days, with all of these 19, is that they will be fearful, full of fear, and peril. That is what is going to mark the last days, the last moments of world history as we know it, and let me define that and expound on that when I say that. In the last moments of world history, I'm referring to the end of this age.

It will start with the rapture, then after the rapture, the 7-year tribulation will begin, at the end of the 7-year tribulation is the Second Coming, and then the Second Coming will then end that final 1000 years, the Millennial Reign known as the Kingdom Age. So, we're at the end, which was actually what the prophecy update was all about today.

We're going to look at each of the 19 characteristics on this list, one by one. I should have you out of here by about 2. No, we'll go through them quickly. I know, famous last words.

Before that, I need to draw your attention to what I see as an important "why" behind the "what." In other words, why do we have what we have here in God's Word? Why did God deem it necessary to inspire the Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit to write this to Timothy and include this in the canon of Scripture? It has to be here for a reason.

I would suggest that God would inspire Paul to write this so that God's people would be prepared for what's coming-not only does this serve as a sign of the time of the end, but so, too, does it prepare us for what comes in the end. In addition to preparing us, it's also protecting us, and I'll explain what I mean by that.

Don't you find it interesting that after Paul lists all 19 of these characteristics, he doesn't say something to the effect you need to reach these people? He doesn't say that. Instead have nothing to do with them. Why would he say that? Because it's a protection for God's people from the influence of these people. It's so that they don't corrupt us.

We just got done last week seeing where and Paul likens it to spreading like gangrene or cancer. This is a protection as well as a preparation for God's people. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians in his first epistle, Chapter 15:33, interestingly, he said, do not be deceived. Why would the Holy Spirit inspire the Apostle Paul to write, "do not be deceived," unless there was the propensity for people to be deceived? We've talked about that at length as well. Do not be deceived and, listen, led astray. Bad company corrupts good character.

Let me just kind of parenthetically say that this was written to a pastor of a church. Timothy is a pastor, and this is a church in Ephesus at the time. Now, why do I mention that? Because it's so easy as we go through this list to say, oh, those people. Wait a minute. This is written to the church. Oh, they're rash, disobedient to parents. It's always about somebody else. Well, not so fast. This is for us. Written to us. I think it's incumbent upon us to view this through the lens of the Holy Spirit, searching our hearts because if the truth be known, this is talking about us in the last days.

Let's get started. Are you ready? That wasn't very convincing at all.

We're going to start off with this first one. It's a biggie. [Number 1.] "Lovers of themselves." I would suggest that we are living in a day of unparalleled, unmatched self-love/selfishness, and it's evidenced by everything being man-centered. Listen, I have to confess that as a pastor of this amazing church, which is my privilege, this gives me pause.

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

Because today, in these last days, you would be hard-pressed to go to a church and hear the Word of God taught, preached, and the name of Jesus even spoken. Do you know why? Because all the sermons are man-centered and, oh, by the way, so is the worship. Please know that it's not my intention to come down hard and beat up and bash on - No. I'm only saying that this gives me pause.

The Laodicean, lukewarm church today has crafted and fashioned all of the worship around you. Do you know that song? I love that song. It's all about You, Jesus. Come on. No, it's not! It's all about you! Oh, the sermon is about you. It's self-help, how to. I'm going to take it a step further and suggest that everything else that follows on this list results from self-love and even self-worship. It's all about self.

With the 2nd one on the list being [Number 2.] "Lovers of money," we see this here - it makes sense. Paul, writing to Timothy in his first epistle, chapter 6, is the most misquoted verse I believe in all of the Bible. It's the love of money-not money. It's the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil, many that pursue it pierce themselves through with many a sorrow. But see, it makes sense because if I'm worshipping self, then money is all about me.

Again, I hate to say it, but it has to be said, is this not manifested in the church today? It's all about self. It's all about money. This is one of the reasons why when we started the church, I really sensed from the Lord that we were not to receive an offering in the formal or traditional way. Nothing wrong with that. We were just to have a box, and the only time we would ever talk about money is when we were at a place in God's Word where God's Word talked about money because of the abuses on the part of those who are all about the money.

They're in the ministry for the money. It's all about them, and it's all about the money. Again, this gives me pause, but this explains it, doesn't it? It doesn't excuse it, but it does explain it. If it's all about self and I'm a lover of myself, then certainly what will ensue is that I will be a lover of money too.

Number 3. "Boastful." I mean, oh, boy. I do have it in my notes, so I guess I'll stick to my notes and stay on message. This is social media. Thank you for saying, "Amen." We need to look no further than all the posts on social media that center on boasting and bragging about oneself.

If you're anything like me, and I suspect that you are, I really don't need to see a picture of what you're eating for lunch. I'm sorry. I'm sorry, especially when I'm fasting. Have you ever noticed that when you fast, every TV commercial is food? No, it's deliberate. They know I'm fasting. I mean, every single commercial. They don't even have drug commercials when I'm fasting, just food, every single one. So, I have to fast from the TV, too.

But again, doesn't this fit? If I love self, worship self, I'm going to boast about self. Listen, here's the thing. I am my favorite topic to talk about. Reminds me of that humorous exchange when somebody finally just says, oh, that's enough of me talking about me. You talk about me. Okay, let's move on before we get way too convicted here. It gets worse, by the way just so you know.

Number 4. "Proud." Now again, obviously, if we love ourselves and boast about ourselves, we're going to become full of ourselves. Right? The last time I checked, pride still comes before the fall.

Number 5. "Abusive." Now some translations render this word blasphemers, and it has this idea of profaning God, hang on to that, which is a result of exalting self. Now stay with me. I think the word profane may be misunderstood because it has this idea of making common, profaning, bringing down to a lower level. That is to profane - to make common.

So, let's take that understanding and that definition and put it into the template of this word here. Is it not true that if I'm going to exalt self, to exalt self, I've got to bring down everybody but self, including God?

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

By the way, sadly, this plays out in many a marriage relationship. We're going to talk about marriage in a moment where the man cuts down, condescends, and talks down to the wife. You don't realize, husband, she's dying inside, and then you wonder why she's the way she is.

I'm reminded of that Proverb; I forget chapter and verse. It basically says this. That there are several things that the earth cannot bear up under. On that list, one of those things is a wife who is not loved by her husband, an unloved woman. Because you see, that's the way God made the woman, is to be loved. So, when the husband, in his folly and insecurity, brings her down, he's doing so to bring himself up. That's the why, if you will, behind what.

Number 6. "Disobedient to their parents." Now, at first read, you're going to read that and go yeah, kids these days, right? Oh, this generation. Okay. Well, wait a minute. Let's look a little bit deeper. Let's dig a little bit deeper.

This is one of the clearest signs of the last days, the breakdown of the family. Think about it like this. The marriage relationship is a microcosm of our relationship with one another and our Heavenly Father. We're brothers and sisters in Christ, siblings. I hate to say it like that because siblings mean sibling rivalry. We're brothers and sisters in Christ. He's our Heavenly Father. Also, we're the bride of Christ. So, I guess it makes some sense in some way, again not to excuse it, but to explain it.

This is why the enemy will do everything and stop at nothing to destroy the family, and he's succeeded in large measure because of what the family represents. Look at society today. Look at the church today. Is it no wonder that we're in the condition that we're in?

I deliberately chose not to include any statistics. I think this is depressing enough. We don't need more statistics, right? But they surely bear out the statistics of families. We're talking about Christians here. Christian marriages that are still together. How about the children?

Number 7. "Ungrateful." This is a biggie. I mean, they're all biggies, but this is a biggie, biggie. Any talk of people not having an attitude of gratitude has to include a discussion of the age of entitlement that we're living in. Again, I'm just as guilty as anybody. I know kids these days are so entitled. Okay, what about you? What about you? I'm owed this. I should have this. Of course, you should because it's all about you. So, you're entitled, and with entitlement, out goes gratitude. Ungrateful, not thankful. I think one of the most unattractive traits in a Christian is being ungrateful.

I think this is the Holy Spirit. I'm just going to mention this. Maybe it's for somebody here. Philippians 4, 6 through 8, Worry about nothing. How? By praying about everything and thanking God for anything. When you do, not only will you worry about no-thing, but if you set your mind to think on, and by the way, the word thank comes from think and if you think about it, you realize how much you have to be thankful for - if you think about it. Paul says, think on these things, whatsoever things are, and here's another list if you want.

Try this. I dare you! If you can, it's not going to be an easy do. Oh, easier said than done. Turn everything off and just think about everything that you can thank God for. I promise you, you'll never run out of things. Surely the big things, but I'm talking about anything, little things. Sometimes I think we would do well to just thank God that we have fingers on our hands. That we have hands so we can text and post on social media. What would we do without those thumbs, or if you're older, it's the [pecking]?

Just be thankful for it. This is the way God has wired us, by the way. If you start thinking about all that you have to be thankful and grateful for? Then, all of a sudden, it's like this – and what were you worried about again? Huh, what was I thinking? You weren't.

Number 8. "Unholy." Do you know what unholiness means? No holiness. I know that's deeply profound, right? I was thinking about this. I hope I don't botch this because it's a local thing. I learned

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

this many years ago, when we first moved here, what Aloha means. It means give breath, life, "ha." And then I learned what "haole" means. Thank you for laughing. It means no breath. Ha - no. That's what it means. Am I right? I'm right. Right? Okay.

I'm going somewhere with this. I actually have a profound point that I'm going to make here. Just wait for it. No breath. Ha-ole - no Holy. I should have prayed about that one a little bit more. Did you get it? Just tell me anyway, you got it.

Here's another one. We'll try this one. Okay? Just bear with me. Into the Cola market, a new soda, 7-Up, but the lion's share of the soda market is Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola. Here comes 7-Up. How are they going to get a share of the market? Oh, brilliant campaign. The Un-Cola; No-Cola. Can we just use that one? Unholy, no holiness. No reverence, ungodly, no God, no interest in the things of God. Unholiness.

Number 9. "Without love." This is an interesting word in the original language because you have to understand in Greek that they have four words for love. We only have one in English. So, I say, I love my wife. I love my kids. I love spicy ahi poke. I love, I love, I love, right? Same word. I Love my kids, most of the time - when they're obedient.

In Greek, you have four different words. You have agape, storge, eros, and philia. Agape is the love that God has for us. It's unconditional, unending love. Philia is where we get Philadelphia. It's a brotherly love, a friendship love. Eros is where we get our English word erotic. It's a sensual, physical, sexual love.

Then storge, translated, natural affection, is the love that a parent has for their child and their child for the parent. That's what he's talking about here. Now what he's saying is that there's not going to be any storge love, parental love in the last days. The natural affection, think abortion.

Again, please, I think we do err greatly as pastors when we harp on abortion as abortion is not the unforgivable sin. If you, in your life, in your past, have had any part in an abortion, God loves you; God forgives you. Do you know why God hates it? Why God hates divorce? He doesn't hate the divorced. He doesn't hate someone for having an abortion. He hates what divorce and abortion do to the person that's divorce and that has the abortion.

Again, this is protection-He's protecting us from needless pain and suffering, and that's really what the 10 Commandments are, by the way. One has affectionately referred to them as the tender Commandments, from a loving, tender Heavenly Father. He says don't do that because I love you so much, and I'm trying to spare you from the consequences of murder, adultery, covetousness, all 10 of them.

Number 10. "Unforgiving." This word can also be translated as truce-breakers. It has this idea of breaking a covenant, citing irreconcilable differences. Again, this speaks to the family, marriage, and divorce. But interesting, unforgiving, well, that's it right there. Marriage requires you must forgive. If you carry it for years, then what happens is a seed of bitterness begins to germinate and sprout, and it will destroy your life.

Again, it's not because God said so. No, it's because God loves you. He cannot stand to see you be destroyed from the inside out by bitterness, unforgiveness. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, Jesus included in that template of prayer, if you want to see it like that, forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us.

Here's how it works, and it does work. I am able to forgive because I, myself, have been the recipient of God's forgiveness. As a husband and a wife, if you withhold forgiveness, it starts building resentment. God is faithful. He's gentle, patient, long-suffering. I know for me, many times He's had to... This was before email, He faxed me. Remember the fax machines? The thermal roll, that roll was

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

long. Are you withholding? Did you forget how much I... I'll send you a fax. The thing just kept rolling. I ran out of paper; Ariel, Narrow, 10 fonts, single space too. I'm looking at all the things that I... And I'm withholding forgiveness? Wow.

Number 11. "Slanderous." I need to spend a little bit of time on this if you'll just kindly allow me to – slanderous. Do you know what this word is in the original? Diabolos. Do you know what diabolos is? Are you ready? Wait for it: Devil! That's what that means. Slanderer! Accuser of the brethren. Slander - diabolos.

Do you know what's sad? It's not just Christians; it's pastors. My heart is so grieved when I see YouTube videos that pastors put out, and they are just slandering their brother in Christ. Do you know what's interesting? I would say that within the last probably three years, maybe five years at the most, it has gotten infinitely worse, and it's a marker of the last days.

Do you realize that when you slander somebody, you're doing the Devil's bidding? At the end of chapter 2 last week, we just saw that Satan takes captive Christians to do his will. Paul writes to Timothy and says, pray for them that they repent and come to their senses. They don't realize that Satan uses them to do his dirty work for him instead of him.

We're never more like Satan than when we slander and falsely accuse and gossip. You're destroying people, and is that not what Satan's aim is? Jesus said the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. There are three names given to the enemy. He's the accuser of the brethren, he's the author of confusion, and he's the father of lies.

Again, search my heart, Lord. It is something Oswald Chambers once said, well said, "It's not, have you been wronged. It's, have you wronged." So, Lord, search my heart and see if there be any slander on my part. Guard my heart. I don't want to do this. I know what it's like to be on the receiving end of this. It's not fun. It hurts bad.

Do you know that saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me? Are you kidding me? Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can absolutely devastate me! Oh, it hurts so bad, so mean. Diabolos - slanderers.

Number 12. "Without self-control." I think this sort of speaks for itself. Self-control, of course, should come as no surprise, given that it's a fruit of the Holy Spirit and there's "no holy." So, there is not going to be any fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Number 13. "Brutal." Now, this has the idea of violent, savage, murderous, and I suppose in all fairness, it could be argued that people have always been savage and violent and brutal. But I want you to think about this. Everything on this list, today in this the last days is simultaneous - simultaneously.

Well, one might say, we've really become more civilized. Really? I don't think so. Yeah, but, you know, back in the day, they were brutal and savage. Really? Oh, we might look on the outward appearance to be more civilized - but the inward?

Number 14. "Not lovers of the good." Paul is saying here that not only are people today, not lovers of the good, they actually despise the good. Is that not what we see in the world today? It wasn't that long ago that when you told somebody you were going to church, they were like, wow. Now you say, hey, I'm going to church. You're one of those. What, do I have Leprosy?

That's what Isaiah said, a curse upon those who call good evil and evil good. Again, I could bring up all of the issues of the day. Black Lives Matter - That's good. How about eternal lives matter? Not good. Do we want to add more initials to LGBTQ? I think the new one is what, "I?" I have no idea - iPhone? I don't know. I'm trying to be silly for a reason. Good! Good for you! No, here's what's good. No! Despisers of the good!

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

Number 15. "Treacherous." This word means being traitors—betrayers in the sense that there's no loyalty to anything or even anyone - treacherous.

Number 16. "Rash." This carries the idea of being reckless and thoughtless, inconsiderate, no consideration for others. I mean, after all, I love self. I don't love you. I don't care about you. It doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is me. So rash, reckless, thoughtless, inconsiderate.

There was a day not too long ago, and again I don't want to bash on young people, but young people had respect for older people. I mean, get this, they actually used to say things like, yes, sir. Yes, ma'am. Where are you from? You ain't from around these parts, are you? In fact, not only is there no respect, it is rude, vile, foul, evil the way kids talk to their parents. The way the younger speaks to the elder.

I grew up in an Arab home, and my dad was an Egyptian, and you showed respect. When an elder walked into the room, you stood up, and you offered them your seat. If you didn't, the shame was crushing. You could not even hold up your head in the community. You had brought shame on yourself and on your family. That was the kind of respect. Not anymore.

Number 17. "Conceited." This has the idea of being puffed up. Puffed up with a sense of one's own self-importance, which again is the result of loving oneself. It's, I'm more important than you, and it manifests in traffic. Oh, boy, I know, I've confessed to you my... I've repented. God's forgiven me. But isn't that true, though? You're in traffic, and somebody cuts you off, and you become incensed. Do you know what's even worse is when they have a Christian bumper sticker? It's like, oh! That's why I don't put them on my car.

But why are you so incensed? Because they cut me off. Oh? And then they go slow. It's deliberate. I know it is. They slow down... Here's the thing. They're driving the speed limit, but that's the problem. They're driving the speed - who drives the speed limit?

Oh, I get it. Where you have to go is more important than where they have to go. Ah, wait, wait, let me see if I got this right. You're more important than they are. How dare they? Do they know who I am?

Do you know what my recurring nightmare is? I've shared this, right? My recurring nightmare... Do you know how you have those recurring dreams? When you are a kid, the recurring dream is you show up at school in your pajamas. Have you ever had those?

Here's mine. Somebody cuts me off in traffic on the way to church, and then I pass them. I give them "the look." You know what I'm talking about the look. Let him know, and then I speed off in front of them. Then I pull up to the church, and I park. You know where I'm going with this, don't you? And then they pull up and park next to me. Oh, you're a Christian. Yeah, it's worse than that. I'm the pastor. Okay, I'm moving on.

Number 18. "Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." Here again, this should come as no surprise. If you love self, you're entitled to any and all pleasures for self. That's what you're living for - Hedonism.

Interesting that Paul would specify this one in particular as loving pleasure instead of, rather than, loving God. Do you connect those dots? I'm god. So, I love me - not God. So, I'm a lover of pleasure - not a lover of God. If I didn't love myself and see myself as my own god, to indulge in every pleasure known to mankind, then I would be a lover of God, seeking only, listen, to please God for His good pleasure, to please Him.

Last one, [umber 19.] "Having a form of godliness but [and this is interesting] denying its power." I think this sums it all up. Again, it explains, not excuses, ungodliness. It explains it as denying that God has the right, the power, the authority over me. That's what that means. Having a form of godliness

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### *Terrible Times*

JD Farag

but denying God has the power to overrule me. The power over me - He has no right. That's what that means. Let that sink in. Is that not what the world and even the church has become today.

Again, I think of the Church of Laodicea. The only church of the seven churches that, instead of saying to the angel of the church of \_\_\_\_\_, write. It doesn't say it like that. It says to the angel of the church of Ephesus write, to the angel of the church in Smyrna, to the angel Church of Thyatira, Sardis, Pergamum, Philadelphia. When he gets to Laodicea, he says, to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans. It's not even My church anymore. This is the church where He's knocking to come back in. He's been kicked out of the church.

Do you know what's interesting about the name? The name is the nature, the description: Laodicea, a combination of two English words: laity and diocese. The laity decides and rules. They have the authority, not Jesus. They're denying Him the authority, the power to rule. It's not His church. It's the church of the Laodiceans, which is why Jesus is on the outside knocking to come back in.

With this list, again, I have to ask myself, Lord, search my heart and see anything on this list in my heart. I want to close with that question and maybe just take it a step further. Think this through with me. What would your life, my life, be like if it was the antithesis of all of these characteristics?

In other words, what if I died to self instead of love self? What if I were humble instead of proud and thankful instead of ungrateful - how drastically would my Christian life change? Is this the reason and the explanation of why my life is in such shambles? Just stand-alone, one alone - pride. Humility by itself, stand-alone, can so drastically change everything in your life, in your marriage, in your family, in your home, in your workplace. In all of your relationships, just that one alone, humility.

Well, we made it through. Are you okay? You didn't leave. Thank you for not leaving. Why don't you stand? We'll close in prayer. I mean, teaching this was tough. I can't even imagine you being on the other end of that, of this teaching. But it's good - hard!

I think of when Jesus taught a hard teaching, and the multitudes just bailed. Remember that? Jesus turns to His disciples and says, are you guys going to bail on me too? I love what Peter said. You've got to love Peter. He says, Lord, yeah, it was hard teaching, but where else are we going to go? This is the Word of truth, the Word of life. In other words, I don't want to hear this, but I need to hear this, and I need to heed this too.

Father, thank You for Your Word. As hard as it is to hear, Lord, we need to hear it. Thank you for it. Now, Lord, by the Holy Spirit, You need to take it from here. Otherwise, our time together will have been a complete waste of time, and we're like what James said, just hearers of the Word and not doers. So, Lord, we need the Holy Spirit to now make the needed application to our lives. Make this real in our lives. Lord, thank You. In Jesus' name. Amen.