

2 Timothy Chapter 3: Imposters Exposed

2 Timothy Chapter 2: Equipped

- Diligence in the Word, Truths with no “wobble room”
- Watching what we say, Gently correcting

2 Timothy Chapter 3

1But realize this, that in the last days **difficult times will come**. 2For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; **Avoid such men as these**.

- **Difficult times:** To speak Truth. Religion will be rampant
- **Religious Men:** Lovers of self; haters of both God and man
- **“Form” of godliness** but will oppose Truth that saves (ahead)
- **Avoid:** Unlike previous chapter instructions to gently correct

6For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak **women weighed down with sins**, led on by various impulses,

- Women **weighed down with sin:** Easy target for cults
- **Led on by various impulses:** Sensitive; led by emotion; not black and white

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the **serpent deceived Eve** by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the **simplicity** and purity of devotion to Christ.

- Led Astray from Simplicity: Looking for “new” truth
- Paul instructs women not to have authority over men because:

1 Timothy 2:14 ...it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

7 always learning and **never able** to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- These “imposters” **do not know life-giving, sin forgiving Truth**

8 Just as **Jannes and Jambres** opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly **will be obvious to all**, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

- **Jannes and Jambres:** Depraved in mind, Rejected from the True Faith; traditionally magicians who opposed to Moses and God
- Moses was sent to Pharaoh to do wonders as the magicians imitated them (snake, blood, etc.) w/ secret arts until the gnats

Exodus 8:18 The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, **but they could not**; so there were gnats on man and beast. 19 Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

Exodus 9:10 (Read) So [Moses and Aaron] took soot from a kiln, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast. 11 The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, **for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians.**

- Imposters are Opposers...of Truth (v8)
- **First impotence** (Cannot deliver what was promised)
- **Then Judgment** (Boils seen by all)
- So too today God reveals folly: DNA, 144,000 and no Christ return, real diseases that kill (Christian Science);
- Impotent religions that will be judged: Leaders and followers

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

- Follow me as I follow Christ
- Endured and rescued from all; could quit anytime...or could he?

Acts 20:22 "And now, **compelled** by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.

Acts 28:19 But when the Jews objected, I was **compelled** to appeal to Caesar

1 Corinthians 9:16 Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am **compelled** to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

- Paul's Motives were pure; led by the Holy Spirit of God; For God and for others

13But **evil men and impostors** will proceed from bad to worse, **deceiving and being deceived.**

- Motives were/are selfish; to bring glory to self
- **Deceived and...being deceived?** Buying their own spiel

2 Corinthians 11:13 or such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14No wonder, for even **Satan disguises** himself as an angel of light. 15Therefore it is not surprising if **his servants** also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

- **Empty teaching:** Never leading to Salvation but judgment
- Judgment for the imposter *and* those who are deceived
- How do we keep from being deceived?

14You, however, **continue** in the things you have learned and become convinced of, **knowing** from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the **sacred writings** which are able to give you the **wisdom that leads to salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is **inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;**

- **Continue:** Walk in what you know is True and are convinced of
- **Know your Teacher:** Make sure your source is reliable: Granny, Mom, Paul...ultimately the "**Sacred Writings**"
- **Check your teacher!** Paul commends the Bereans, saying...

Acts 17: 11...these were **more noble-minded** than those in Thessalonica, for they **received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**

- **Sacred Writings:** Able to give Wisdom leading to Salvation and Inspired by God

1. Profitable for Teaching
2. Profitable for Reproof
3. Profitable for Correction
4. Profitable Training in Righteousness

17 so that the man of God may be **adequate, equipped for every good work.**

- **Adequate:** Simply...**equipped for every good work**

Summary:

- Imposters have always existed...they **oppose the Truth** that saves and forgives
- Imposters **muddy the waters for the Gospel** so...know and test your teachers against the Word...be Noble and help others
- Imposter motives will be self-seeking
- Imposters will **target women** and those who do not know their Bible
- Imposters will **first be known as impotent** (unable to deliver what is promised), **then they will be judged** as will their uneducated followers:

Isaiah 5:13 Therefore My people **go into exile for their lack of knowledge;**

Hosea 4:6 My people are **destroyed for lack of knowledge**