



## Beware of the Teachers in Your Life 2 Timothy 3:1-9

It is vitally important that we guard the truth and are faithful servants because we live in a godless world filled with false teachers. “Teachers” can be any person or entity that has influence in our lives, cultural or church.

### Characteristics of False “Teachers”

The last days are the days preceding the return of Jesus for His own. The last days also can be the entire time between Christ’s accession and His return (Heb 1:2)

**What they love** – They are lovers of self, lovers of money and lovers of pleasure rather than God.

**What they are against** – Their character is the opposite of what it should be. Paul says they are ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable (unforgiving), without self-control, brutal (uncivilized), without love for what is good.

**How they see themselves and others** – This is how they think of themselves: boastful, proud, and conceited. This is how they treat others: demeaning (abusive to others), disobedient to parents, traitors (betrayers), reckless

**The bottom line** – Paul uses the word “slanderer” Greek *diabolo* (which can be translated devils) to describe them. These are devilish people. Paul concludes by saying they are “holding to the form of godliness but denying its power.” These are religious people that do not have true Christian faith. They’ve experienced religion but not the power of God in their lives.

### Methods of False “Teachers”

The false teachers of Timothy’s day and our own prey on people who are (1) gullible, (2) burdened with guilt, (3) lack self-control as they are led by their passions, and (4) always seeking knowledge but never finding the truth. Paul identified a specific group of women in his day, but his statement isn’t indicative of all women. They are an example of the type of people false teachers prey on. As the false teachers worm their way into people’s lives they gain followers who give money, loyalty and service but become worse off because they still have their problems, but have been duped into thinking all is well.

### Demise of False “Teachers”

Paul compares the false teachers to Jannes and Jambres. In Exodus 7 and 8 Moses shows Pharaoh the power of God by turning Aaron’s staff into a snake, turning the water of the Nile into blood, and bringing a plague of frogs out of the Nile. Pharaoh hardened his heart each time in part because his magicians could do the same things. However, with the plagues that followed the magicians couldn’t replicate them and they warned Pharaoh they were from God. Jewish tradition says the magician’s names were Jannes and Jambres. Of course, Jannes and Jambres, the Pharaoh and all of Egypt were judged by God and came to nothing in the end. Paul says the same will be true of the false teachers. They won’t succeed and their foolishness would be clear to all.