

Teaching Series: 2 Timothy

Passage: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Title: Perilous Times, Perilous People, and a Prepared Church

Summary: Paul starts this next section of the epistle by saying in the original language, "be knowing, and keep on knowing, and be keeping this in your mind, that in the last days it will be perilous times filled with many perilous people, and the key to enduring is the continual learning and understanding of the Scriptures (from childhood through adulthood). Join us as we..... continue in the Scriptures.

2 Timothy 3 (NKJV) ¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was. ¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Outline: Perilous Times, Perilous People, and a Prepared Church

1. Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Come in the Form of godliness (3:2-5)
2. Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Want to Creep in Households (3:6-7)
3. Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Be Made Known to the Church (3:8-9)
4. Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Come Against God's People (3:10-12)
5. Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Be Defeated by The Word of God (3:13-17)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(2 Timothy 3:1 NKJV) But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

In verse 1 Paul tells Timothy, God tells us,

But know this,

That in the last days perilous times will come. The words “know this” means “get knowledge about this, “this be knowing,” that is, “be keeping this in your mind” regarding the last-last days.

Last Days

The expression, “in the last days,” refers to the time immediately preceding the Rapture of the Church and the second Advent of the Lord Jesus. “Times” is kairos (καίρος), which Trench defines as follows: “a critical, epoch-making period foreordained of God when all that has been slowly, and often without observation, ripening through long ages, is mature and comes to the birth in grand decisive events, which constitute at once the close of one period and the commencement of another.”

Wuest, K. S. (1997). Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader (Vol. 8, p. 143). Grand Rapids: Erdmans.

They will be perilous

5467 χαλεπός [chalepos /khal·ep·os/] adj. Perhaps from 5465 through the idea of reducing the strength; GK 5901; Two occurrences; AV translates as “fierce” once, and “perilous” once. 1 hard to do, to take, to approach. 2 hard to bear, troublesome, dangerous. 2A harsh, fierce, savage.

**Strong, J. (1995). Enhanced Strong's Lexicon. Woodside Bible Fellowship.*

Paul says you must know that you know, you must get knowledge about this..... be knowing about this, know how to read the signs of the last days.

Paul gives us 18 words or phrases to describe the last days.

1 - Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Come in the Form of godliness (3:2-5)

(2 Timothy 3:2 NKJV) **For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,**

For men will be lovers of themselves - When the settlers came to America the first thing they would build together would be a town center that would serve as the church and community center, then they would build their houses. Today community and church are low on the list. First and foremost in this world is self, there is a huge self-occupation with self, as densely populated as this world has become, man has become isolated because of being so self-occupied.

Lovers of money, - Need money to love yourself lavishly

boasters, - as used in its time, an empty pretender. Says plenty but could never deliver. The word was used for the snake-oil salesman who would promise wonderful results, but well out of town before the results would kick-in.

proud, - to put themselves above others.

blasphemers, - Not just cursing but saying the Lord's name in vain. Saying the Lord's name as if it is something common, not saying it reverently. As we mentioned in the past studies when the Scribes would write the name of God, they would take a bath, change their clothes, get a new pen and fresh ink, and then write the name of God. Maybe we might consider that extreme, for God never asked them to do that, but God did say don't take my name in vain, it isn't common place. Today man throws it around never considering the whom of that name. The Big Man upstairs.

disobedient to parents, - the beginning of the lack of respect for authority, first and foremost the authority of God who says, children obey and honor your parents.

unthankful, - to be unthankful, is to be ungrateful, because what a person has is never enough.

unholy, - Means offender of all that is holy. Holy means to be set apart, to be uncommon,

(2 Timothy 3:3 NKJV) unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

unloving – of course can't love any one because of love of self.

unforgiving/trucebreakers – In the KJV it is translated “trucebreaker”. Today we see a contract is meaningless. Sports stars sign a five year contract then want to renegotiate 2 years later. Politicians make all their promises then break them once they make office. Fifty percent of the marriages in this country end in divorce. When I do marriage counseling I point out to the couple you are not making a contract with each other, you are making a covenant before God. You can go to the courthouse and get a contract, but when you see fit, some ink and money will break that. But you are making an eternal covenant with God to love cherish each other until death do you part, there is no court or lawyer who has the power to break it.

Slanderers – Talking behind others back to build themselves up, or further their cause. They are always so bold when they talk behind a persons back, but then put on a different face when they are in that persons presence.

without self-control, - Whatever it takes to satisfy myself, for I am a lover of myself. This is most applicable regarding sexual immorality, as a person only cares about self and not the other, they just use the person for their own sexual gratification.

brutal, - Murder and violence at an all-time high, domestic violence, rioting, abortion, and the list goes on.

despisers of good, - Means people who are intolerant of people who still have and speak out on moral values. Christians are the brunt of jokes, or smears because of our unwillingness to join or laugh along.

(2 Timothy 3:4 NKJV) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

traitors. - Whatever it takes to please self. I am amazed how these people will sell weapons or secrets to evil countries all for a buck, knowing that it will cause their very country to lose lives.

headstrong. - People not willing to accept that they are doing wrong, or violating God's will for their life. We've always seen this in the world, but now more and more inside the church. People refusing to repent, saying their way is right and your way is too narrow.

Haughty – means blinded by pride, or drunk with pride.

lovers of pleasure – The problem with lover of pleasure is that you reach that point of been there done that, so you have to increase the frequency of intensity, bigger, better, faster, farther..... We see it today, and it is leading so many people to depression and/or destruction.

(2 Timothy 3:5 NKJV) having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

I am amazed in our country, of how far God has been pushed out, how far the country has turned from God to do their own things, yet how many still profess to be Christians and His followers.

(*Titus 1:15 NKJV*) *To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.*

(*Titus 1:16 NKJV*) *They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*

A Recent Survey: 60 Percent of Born Again Christians Under 40 Say Jesus Isn't the Only Way to Salvation. So they profess to be believers, but 60% (which is huge), say Jesus is not the only way. What that survey means is those people truly do not understand the gospel, and to which I say are most likely not saved themselves, because:

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Now consider this, all these 18 things we just read they are (all negative), yet the Scripture tells us they have a form of godliness (go-likeness). They put on an outward appearance of godliness, and they maintain it. I personally believe they believe it. All these 18 ungod-likeness things they do are, and yet they believe they are godly.

Worse.... There are many like just like them, we are reading of multitudes and majorities, all thinking they are god-like. This statement in verse 5 is the scariest out of all; for if they were known as vile and evil, then they would be known for who they truly are. But they will come across, and be received by many, as godly. These actions in the last days, will be associated with godliness. It speaks aloud, that in the last-last days, the Bible will be no mirror that men will look into to see their true reflections. What we have just read (these 18 things) were ever so common in medieval times, what we called the dark-age, where the church kept the people from the Scriptures for themselves, and many of the (popes, bishops, and cardinals) were these very things. When men like John Hus, William Tyndale, John Wycliffe translated the Scriptures into the language of the common people, they were put in prison and eventually killed for it.

So hateful towards Wycliffe were they that they dug up his body and burned his bones because their fury against him was not satisfied in his death.

At last count of the 195 countries in the world, in 52 of them it is illegal to own a bible.

Sadly for many churches and pastors, the Word is one piece, not the piece; as the Word has to compete in the church and the ministries for social events, business matters, new buildings, and technology – and is not the primary focus of the ministry.

And..... point #4 says all those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, and see who and where it comes from, those doing such evil (those 18), yet consider themselves “godly”.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV) ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

from such people turn away! – Jesus ate with the Sinners and Tax Collectors, but not for fellowship, but so that they may see who their Savior was. We are not to run from those people who live such ways, we are to reach out to them, but the warning here is not become a part of their lifestyle.

2 - Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Want to Creep in Households (3:6-7)

(2 Timothy 3:6 NKJV) For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

(2 Timothy 3:7 NKJV) always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

These people say we have a greater insight, you don't need the Bible. They knock on your door Saturday morning, or come by on their bicycles.

This also speaks of Christians; some continually just keep falling back into the same sins over and over. They know the truth, they hear the word, they come to Bible study, but always keep getting drawn back into their vice. They will excuse it, or say you don't understand, but they are the ones that don't understand. Listen Jesus is coming back and you can be free of all this. People keeping losing to these things, they don't know freedom is available now, and He is coming back soon.

I see a life-giving example in Acts, of why Christians drift off. It applies for us to guard ourselves against, but also a great example to remind others what they may be doing, and show them the example that they are heading towards shipwreck if they don't heed the word of God.

Acts 27:7-14 (NKJV) ⁷ When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone. ⁸ Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea. ⁹ Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, ¹⁰ saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives." ¹¹ Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. ¹² And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the majority advised to set sail from there also, if by any means they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there. ¹³ When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. ¹⁴ But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon.

At first the wind blew softly, and in a favorable direction. That's always the way it is. When you don't listen to the Word of the Lord, when you go your own way, when you do your own thing, at first you're just blown along softly. But when the fierce winds come— which they always do—you're blown away totally.

Please note four reasons that make this a perfect example of how not to know God's will as you sail through life and journey towards heaven:

- The sailors were impatient (Acts 27:9). Although it was not the season for sailing, these guys wanted to get on with their journey. The Word says, "He that believeth in the Lord must not make haste" (see Isaiah 28:16). Are you impatient? Slow down. When you don't know what to do—don't do anything. When you're not sure which way to go, stay where you are. Wait on the Lord. It's so hard to do, but so important.

- The sailors took a vote (Acts 27:11). The centurion said, "Okay Paul, I hear what you're saying, but I also hear the owner, the captain, and the crew," and Paul was outvoted. God is not an American, folks, and if we make decisions relating to the kingdom on a democratic basis, we're in a heap of trouble. Ask Moses. If the Israelites had voted during their journey through the wilderness, he would have been ousted the first week. We need to know what the heart of God is—not what the majority says.

- The sailors tested the winds (Acts 27:13). "The answer is blowing in the wind," may be true for Bob Dylan, but it's not true for you and me as believers. We're not to say, "The way the wind is blowing and circumstances are pointing will determine my course." No, there needs to be a solid inner conviction, a Holy Spirit direction.

- The sailors sought ease (Acts 27:12). They wanted to get to Phoenix. Why? Phoenix was where all of the sailors wintered. There were lots of restaurants, movie theatres, golf courses. No doubt these guys thought, Why should we stay here? We're only sixty-eight miles from Phoenix. That's the place to be—we can even pick up a Suns game. Sometimes we, like these sailors, ask, "Where is it most comfortable? Where is it easiest?" instead of "What does the Lord know will be best for me?"

Courson, J. (2003). Jon Courson's Application Commentary (pp. 848–849). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

Wasted debates, wasted time, instead of studying the Word of God and seeking what God says about the matter, Christians cruise the internet and news channels to hear what others say.

I see a life-giving example in Acts, of why Christians drift off. It applies for us to guard ourselves against, but also a great example to remind others what they may be doing, and show them the example that they are heading towards shipwreck if they don't heed the word of God.

3 - Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Be Made Known to the Church (3:8-9)

(2 Timothy 3:8 NKJV) Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;

(2 Timothy 3:9 NKJV) but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Referring back to Exodus chapter 7. Moses came to Pharaoh and said God has said let my people go. Pharaoh said no way, so to demonstrate his power Moses threw his staff down and it turned into a serpent, Pharaoh called his magicians Jannes and Jambres, and they did the same. Moses touched forth the waters of the Nile river and turned it into blood, the magicians Jannes and Jambres did the same. Moses brought frogs upon the land, the magicians Jannes and Jambres did the same. Then Moses brought

lice upon the land of Egypt but the magicians Jannes and Jambres could not do the same, and then they said to Pharaoh this must be the finger of God.

These men had power, but not the power of God, what they really did was make matters worse. What little good water was left they turned it to blood, they brought more frogs. That is truly what the “world’s help” does; it has a form of power, but in the end it truly makes matters worse. The answer, the power, lies in a person, not a program or project, the answer lies in the person of Jesus Christ.

Somewhat heavy passage, but God inserts here, like Jannes and Jambres, eventually their façade fades, and people (many – not all) see through it, and come to the truth, and are at the end of the empty words, and desire something greater, something that is true and has a foundation to stand on, and so they say this world (Egypt) is not it, and they thus are ready for truth that sets free.

John 8:32 (NKJV)³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:36 (NKJV)³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

So this isn’t a chapter of defeat, but truly victory, and so hang on Christian, endure like good soldiers in the midst of a long battle, like an athlete at the halfway point of the marathon, and the farmer waiting for the springs rain (which can only come from above).

2 Timothy 2:1-7 (NKJV)¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

4 - Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Come Against God’s People (3:10-12)

(2 Timothy 3:10 NKJV) But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

(2 Timothy 3:11 NKJV) persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Now Paul is saying Timothy you know me, what I have been through, who I am, you’ve seen my walk, my lifestyle, my faith. You know me Timothy, my message I gave was flawless, it was no Jannes and Jambres, they do magic tricks and talk in riddles, impressive for a moment or two, but they can’t keep it up.

Timothy, Paul says, you’ve seen my walk. Follow me as I follow Him. What a statement to say to our kids and family, you know me, you know my walk, follow me, and even if/since we aren’t perfect, we can say follow Him, know Him. If you look at Him, you’ll never be disappointed.

For us, our message and messenger is blameless, flawless – Our Jesus. It is wonderful to say we follow the one who is holy, perfect, and faultless. You can’t deny that, people can only deny Him. We don’t have to be embarrassed about His message, it is a message of love, for He backed his message with action, the cross.

(2 Timothy 3:12 NKJV) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

All will suffer, underline it, put it in your promise box. That's why I am going through what I'm going through why I am in this dungeon, because of my walk, of who I follow.

This verse is in the context of this chapter. This verse is a reminder that those who think they are godly will be the persecutors, but we have a calling to endure as good soldiers, because in the end, there will be those who truly want to be set free.

The children of Israel were upset with Moses, as they expected instant deliverance, but instead they had to endure, more cruelty of the taskmaster, and make bricks with mud, but in the end of their suffering, they experienced the greatest triumph recorded in all the scripture. They defeated the great military power and nation on the planet, without one sword in their possession. God always delivers Christians, and He will deliver you, only now you and I must endure the hardship of this present suffering.

Exodus 5:17–19 (NKJV) ¹⁷ But he said, “You are idle! Idle! Therefore you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ ¹⁸ Therefore go now and work; for no straw shall be given you, yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks.” ¹⁹ And the officers of the children of Israel saw that they were in trouble after it was said, “You shall not reduce any bricks from your daily quota.”

5 - Be Knowing: Perilous People Will Be Defeated by The Word of God (3:13-17)

(2 Timothy 3:13 NKJV) But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

(2 Timothy 3:14 NKJV) But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

(2 Timothy 3:15 NKJV) and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Christian you will be thrown so much stuff in these last days, evil men and imposter trying to deceive you. It will all sound so good, but in the end it will be a Jannes and Jambres.

Timothy had learned from his grandparent, from Paul, Paul is saying Timothy you have learned from many. God will put many people in your life to strength and equip you.

which you have learned – noticed the learned is past tense, stick with what you have learned. The theme of this Book:

(2 Timothy 1:13 NKJV) Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 1:14 NKJV) That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Last days will be perilous, so stick with the main thing; don't get caught up with the babble, stay focused, stay basic, you have been taught by many, you don't need to learn higher spiritual things, but stick to the basic spiritual things.

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

All Scripture, both New Testament and Old Testament.

(Matthew 4:4 NKJV) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

People can't decide what's inspired or not, because people will pick and choose what they like. Instead of the Bible judging me, I now judge the Bible.

Profitable - ophelimos, o-fel'-ee-mos;; helpful or serviceable, i.e. advantageous:--profit (-able). No one goes into business to lose money, to go bankrupt. We don't work for our employer in hopes that the company goes out of business. Approach the study of this Word in the same manner. Look for the profit, know that God wants to bring you a 100 fold return on your investment of reading and studying it. As we have said before, God will not give His Word independent of Himself. Jesus is the Word of God, the Word became flesh, He is the Bread of Life.

4 things the Scriptures are, and 2 results they bring.

The Scriptures are for:

1. Doctrine: what we believe and why. Meaning what is right, what is right about God, hell, man, love
2. Rebuke: what is wrong. The Bible shows us the truth about our sin.
3. Correction: how to get right
4. Instruction: how to stay right. How to stay right with God, treat your spouse, kids, employer, employees.

The results are:

1. Complete/mature: how to be perfect, literally fully ripe. Most Christians are not ripe yet
2. Equipped for good work: God saved us, and He is going to use us.

complete, thoroughly equipped – I'm your all in all. The Soldier, the Athlete, the Farmer, they must be equipped if they are to complete what is before them.

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The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Calvary Chapel of Anne Arundel County
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