

Sermon Notes 10/2/22

“In the Last Days”

How can we be ready for the last days?

1. Understand the results of _____.

2 Timothy 3:1
2 Timothy 3:2-4

2. Avoid _____ teachers.

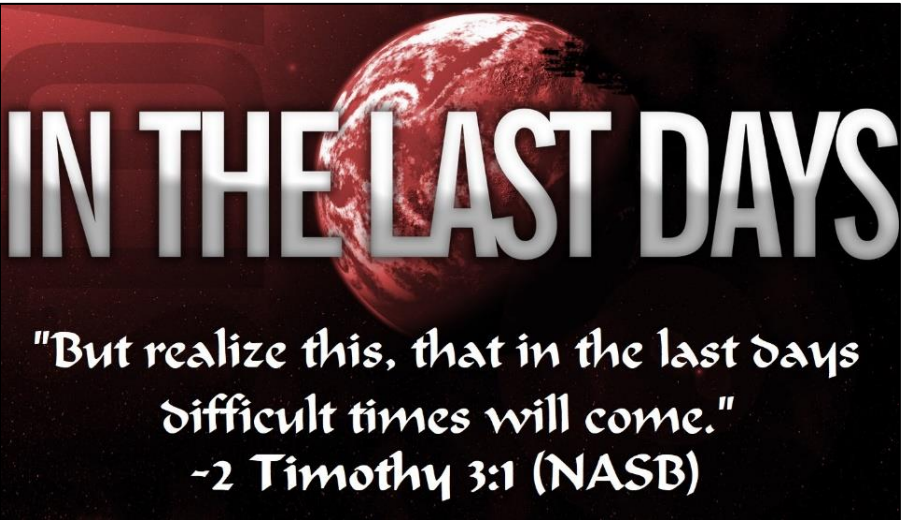
2 Timothy 3:5
2 Timothy 3:8

3. Follow _____ examples.

2 Timothy 3:10
Acts 14:19-22

4. Live godly lives in _____.

2 Timothy 3:12
1 Timothy 6:11-12



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 5: October 2

2 Timothy 3:1-13

In 2012, National Geographic produced a reality show called “Doomsday Preppers.” The show features people preparing for the end of the world. The Bible clearly teaches us that no one knows when Christ will return. However, the Bible also says that we must always be ready for the end of the world. In 2 Timothy chapter 3, Paul tells us how we can be ready for the last days.

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-13

1. How did Paul describe the last days in verse 1?

C. Michael Moss notes,

“The last days” is used elsewhere in the NT to refer to the Messianic age from Jesus’ coming until the final consummation at the end of time (cf. Acts 2:17; Jas 5:3; 2 Pet 3:3; Heb 1:2) ... It does not, as some suggest, represent an assumption that the end of time is near. For example, in 1 John 2:18 the phrase “the last hour” is used of the author’s own day.¹

2. In verses 2-5, Paul describes what many people be like in the last days. According to verse 2, what will these people love?

3. These people are probably disobedient to all authorities. Why do you think Paul specifically mentions “disobedient to their parents”? (3:2)

George Knight writes,

“Disobedient to parents,” describes a behavior pattern that, when persistent and aggravated, is regarded in the OT as a clear sign that the person is rebellious. It may well be placed first in this group as the first step, or the most basic violation, in these violations of the natural order.²

¹ C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 224.

² George W. Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999), 431.

4. According to verse 3 what will these people lack?

5. What will these people love instead of God? (3:4)

Knight observes,

The list begins and ends with words expressing a misdirection of “love.” This suggests that what is fundamentally wrong with these people is that their life is misdirected and that the other vices flow from this misdirection.³

6. What did Paul say about the "godliness" of these people in verse 5?

7. Why does Paul tell Timothy to avoid these people? (3:5)

Moss comments,

Paul concludes the description of the people of the last days by saying that they have “a form of godliness” but “deny its power.” These people will have all the outward characteristics one would expect of a religious person: asceticism, lots of religious discussions, etc. They are, however, really irreligious because they deny “its power,” i.e., the gospel and the changed life it demands.⁴

8. In verse 6-9, Paul warns Timothy about the false teachers in Ephesus who were demonstrating the depravity described in verses 2-5. How were these godless people trying to exploit others? (3:6)

9. Who was Paul referring to when he said they were “always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth”? (3:7)

We know from the Greek gender of the pronouns in verse 7 that Paul was describing the “weak women” from verse 6. The false teachers were predators deliberately looking for immature and impressionable women to take advantage of. Paul was not describing all women, just those who fell prey to the false teachers.

³ Knight, 430.

⁴ Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus*, 226.

10. How did Paul describe the false teachers in verse 8?
11. To what historical figures were these false teachers compared? (3:8)
12. What did Paul predict for the false teachers in Ephesus? (3:9)
13. In verses 10-13, Paul underscores the contrast between his ministry and that of the false teachers and encourages Timothy to follow his example. What did Timothy know about Paul's character? (3:10)
14. From what did Paul say the Lord rescued him? (3:11)
15. What will happen to everyone who wants to live a godly life? (3:12)

Bryan Chapell and Kent Hughes write,

Timothy knew all this. But to hear it from Paul again in the period just before his death was bracing. This was reality, and the acceptance of it placed Timothy on solid ground for what was to come. Such reality will stand us well in today's battles. Our culture flees suffering, seeing nothing noble in it or beyond it. But Christians must expect it in the regular course of serving God. And those who do will stand strong.⁵

16. What did Paul say about evil men and impostors in verse 13?
17. Which description of the last days in this passage bothers you the most when you see it in our culture? Why?
18. How do some people today have a form of godliness and yet deny its power?
19. What relationship should we have with people who flaunt their ungodly behavior?
20. How can we maintain our desire to live godly lives even in the face of persecution?

⁵ R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1-2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 254.