

## **Brokenness**

2 Timothy 3:1-9, 13

March 24, 2019

HDBC

**Continuing our study** of 2 Timothy, which was the last letter written by Paul that is included in the New Testament. Calling the series, Final Words. Paul was pretty positive in his outlook and I think that helped him accomplish as much as he did in his short lifetime.

**But, he was also a realist.** He maintained a positive attitude but refused to ignore the reality of evil in the world. He saw it in real life and he knew it from God's revelation. This is reflected in the words he wrote in 2 Timothy chapter 3.

**The imprisoned mentor** urged the young minister, Timothy to face the future with courage and faith, while acknowledging that things were going to get really hard. He makes it clear that in the end the gospel will prevail. However, between now and that time, this world would experience ever-increasing evil.

### **Anticipate victory, but prepare for battle!**

**Romans 1** offers a clear reminder that the creation is spiraling further and further away from its pristine beginning. In other words, it teaches that things are not going to get better. They will get worse. In Romans we see it as a series of steps with each one getting worse.

**In 2 Timothy 3** we don't see the steps of an ever-increasing depravity, but rather the details of what depravity looks like. We see it more as a finished product.

### **Read the Text – 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 13**

**Last Days** – began with the ministry of Jesus and will continue until He returns. So, this is not simply a reference to the immediate time just before Jesus comes. Rather, it refers to the last 2,000 years, plus the time remaining until He comes.

So, what are these days like?

## 1. Difficult (1-5)

*Difficult times will come* (Vs1)

**Perilous, terrible, harsh, fierce, savage.** Used in Matthew 8:28 to describe 2 demon-possessed men.

**19 words or phrases** in these verse which illustrate these days. But I see **seven categories** of things.

### A. Misdirected Affections

- 2) *Lovers of self* - Narcissism. Love self above everyone else.
- 2) *Lovers of money* - Materialism. Greed will be unchecked.
- 3) *Unloving* - Heartless person. No outward affections.
- 3) *Haters of Good* - everything is backward.
- 4) *Lovers of Pleasure* - Hedonism. Whatever makes me feel good.

### Property Laws of a Toddler:

- 1. If I like it, it's mine.
- 2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
- 3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
- 4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
- 5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
- 6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
- 7. If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
- 8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
- 9. If you are playing with it & you put it down, it becomes mine.
- 10. If it's broken, it's yours.

### B. Pride, Arrogance

- 2) *Boastful* - Con artist, making big promises that are false.
- 2) *Arrogant* - Appearing to be over others. Condescending.
- 2) *Ungrateful* - Refusal to acknowledge others in our lives.
- 4) *Conceited* - Puffed up view of one's self. Head in clouds.

*I have found within myself all I need and all I ever shall need. I am a man of great faith, but my faith is in G Gordon Liddy. I have never failed me.*

Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy quoted in The Christian Century

### C. Vicious tongues

2) *Revilers* – Blasphemous. Verbal contempt for another.

3) *Malicious Gossips* – Diabolos (devil).

### D. Undisciplined and Rebellious

2) *Disobedient to Parents* – Disobey, but also discount parents counsel.

3) *Without Self-Control* – No discipline. Can't say no to self.

4) *Reckless* – Falling forward, without the ability to stop. Downhill!

### E. Cruelty, Violence

3) *Brutal* - Untamed. Savage. Wild Animal. Opposite of gentle

4) *Treacherous* - Willing to betray their friends. Used of Judas.

### F. Hard Hearts

*Irreconcilable* – Unwilling to make things right. Unwilling to listen to reason. Truce-breakers.

### G. Powerless Christians (5)

This may be the most frightening of all. Outward shape without inward reality.

These are **difficult days**. But we should not be surprised. Brokenness cannot heal itself. Nor does it improve. It only get worse.

## 2. Deceptive (6-7, 13)

Paul speaks of those who enter into homes and captivate others. Those who purposefully deceive others Increase in demonic activity. Increase in the number of false teachers. Note that Paul mentions those who are most vulnerable. There are three that he mentions.

### A. Weak

Literally, “little women,” or “silly women.” Hard to get a handle on whom Paul is referring to. Not saying all women are weak. But, those **women who are lacking spiritual strength**. NIV - “weak-willed”. No strong spiritual foundation. Thus they are easily misled.

## B. Sin-Burdened

Literally *having sins heaped upon you*.

Loaded with sin. Paul is speaking of **sins that have accumulated one upon the other**. When you are living in sin you are most vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy. Much easier to deceive someone who is living in sin than someone walking with God.

## C. Immature

*Always learning . . .* Those who on the outside, seem to be always learning, but never learning. Going through the motions, but just not getting anywhere.

*Like a boat with a motor, but no prop. Engine is turning, but the boat is not moving.* Attend seminars and classes, but nothing changes.

## 3. Depraved (8-9)

Paul now moves to describe two men, in particular, with **depraved** minds. Reaching back into the days of Moses to bring up these illustrations.

**Jannes and Jambres**. Names are not mentioned in the Old Testament, but are mentioned in Jewish and Christian literature. Most likely the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses as he was trying to get the Egyptians to let the people go free. There will be many in the last days like these.

**Depraved** - spiritually dead. Destitute. Bankrupt. No concern for God or for spiritual things. No moral restraint. No absolutes. They will lead people further and further from the truth and toward sin.

**What happens when depravity rules?** Every sin imaginable will be committed. **Moral anarchy**. Each person doing what is right in his own eyes, with no regard for any ultimate right or wrong.

**It's dark! And it's going to get darker.** One day, when the darkness has run its course, and man's depravity has reached its height, there will come suddenly, like a thief in the night, the Son of God. He will burst upon the scene bringing a light that will dispel all darkness. Chasing anarchy and immorality into oblivion and replacing them with perfect order and harmony. He will come to make it all right.

**Over and over** and over the Bible cries out with the warning that Jesus is coming. The key is to be ready. To observe the warnings. The times in which we are living is like a red light flashing a warning.

**1986 Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant** experienced the kind of disaster that nuclear power opponents had feared for years. Largest industrial accident in the world as fallout was recorded around the globe. After years, the truth was finally revealed.

**Two electrical engineers** were performing an unauthorized experiment. Trying to see how long the turbine would “free wheel” when they turned the power off of it. Turning the power off of that kind of nuclear reactor is a dangerous thing. In order to do it they had to **manually override six separate computer-generated warnings**. Each time the alarm sounded and the words “Stop! Dangerous! Six times the men turned off the alarms and proceeded. The results were horrific.