

“Leadership In Times of Apostasy”

2nd Timothy Chapter 3

INTRO: Jer 14:14-15 - *And the LORD said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart. Jer 23:14* - *Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; they also strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah. Acts 20:29-31* - *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

I) THE APOSTASY IS NOW! (v1-9)

(v1) **“last days”** (Gk. *eschatos*) – *farthest, final days.* **“Perilous”** means *dangerous, hard to deal with, savage times!*

(v2-4) **Observe 18 ungodly character traits of men in the last days:** (1) men will be lovers of themselves; (2) lovers of money; (3) boasters; (4) proud; (5) blasphemers; (6) disobedient to parents; (7) unthankful; (8) unholy; (9) unloving; (10) unforgiving; (11) slanderers; (12) without self-control; (v13) brutal; (14) despisers of good; (15) traitors; (16) headstrong; (17) lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; (18) having a form of godliness but denying its power.

(v5-7) **These verses deal with the counterfeit Christian leaders within the church,** *“having a form of godliness,”* and in verse seven it says they are *always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the TRUTH.* (Matthew 22:15-45)

(v8-9) **Jannes means “He who SEDUCES” and Jambres means “He who makes REBELLION.”** These two characters are found in Exodus chapters 7 – 9 as they were magicians in Pharaoh’s court imitating the miracles that God performed through Moses. **“Corrupt minds”** speaks of a reprobate mind. But their **“folly”** or literally their *stupidity* will be manifest to all.

Jesus warned us in Matthew 7:15-20 - *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.* (Revelation 3:14-22)

II) HOW TO SURVIVE TIMES OF APOSTASY! (v10-17)

- FOUR “C’s” TO SURVIVAL:

(v10-12) #1 - CAREFULLY follow doctrine, a holy life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions (Acts 13:44-52; 14:1-6, 19.)

(v13) #2 - Watch out for COUNTERFEITS – **IMPOSTERS!** They are evil, deceiving and being **DECEIVED!**

(v14-15) #3 - CONTINUE learning from childhood through adulthood. The **HOLY SCRIPTURES** make you wise for SALVATION through **FAITH** which is in **CHRIST JESUS!** (v16-17) #4 - Be COMPLETE & thoroughly equipped for every good work.

➤ **ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION** (Gk. *theopneustos*) OF **GOD** – meaning **“God breathed.”**

➤ **ALL SCRIPTURE is profitable for:** (1) **DOCTRINE** (teaches us what is **RIGHT**); (2) **REPROOF** (teaches us what is not **RIGHT**); (3) **CORRECTION** (teaches us how to get **RIGHT**); (4) **INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS** (teaches us how to stay **RIGHT**).

We must become **THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK!**