



The Second Epistle to TIMOTHY

Chapter 3

“Leadership In Times of Apostasy!”

INTRO: Jeremiah 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.*

Jeremiah 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)

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

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

(v1) “last days” – *eschatos* – farthest, final days.

“Perilous” means dangerous, hard to deal with, savage times!

(v2-4) Observe 18 ungodly and unrighteous characteristics of men in the last days: For men will be

- (1) *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,*
- (13) *brutal,*
- (14) *despisers of good,*

(15) *traitors,*
(16) *headstrong,*
(17) *haughty,*
(18) *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*
(19) *having a form of godliness but denying its power.*

- John MacArthur writes. “The pride of self-love is the pervasive deadly sin that grips the human soul and is foundation sin of all the others. It might be called the sewer out of which the rest of these ugly sins are discharged . . . The most frightening development within the contemporary church is the wide acceptance and enthusiastic proclamation of self-love—have been imported almost unchanged into the church from anti-biblical secular psychology.

- Warren Wiersbe writes, “In this universe there is God, and there are people and things. We should worship God, love people, and use things. But if we start worshipping ourselves, we will ignore God and start loving things and using people. This is the formula for a miserable life; yet it characterizes many people today.”

(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.* We have institutions of higher learning that spend all their time critiquing, criticizing, and contradicting the Word of God, the Apostles, and even the Lord Jesus Christ! (Matthew 22:15-45)

(v8-9) Jannes name means “He who seduces” and Jambres means “He who makes rebellion.” These two characters are found in Exodus 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 13:14-22; 2 Thessalonians Ch. 2)

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

~ There are three words beginning with “C” to our Christian survival; we are to be Careful, to Continue, and to be Complete to the very end!

(v10-13) **“C” #1 - CAREFULLY follow doctrine, a holy life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions.**

- Here's an example this Scripture in action in Acts 13:44-52 - *On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.” Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (Also, Acts 14:1-6, 19)*

(v14-15) **“C” #2 - CONTINUE learning from childhood through adulthood.**

- Solomon's advice to parents is to “train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

- Moses shared with Israel the following in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

- The HOLY SCRIPTURES make you wise for SALVATION THROUGH FAITH which is in CHRIST JESUS!

(v16-17) **“C” #3 - COMPLETE and be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

- ALL SCRIPTURE is given by INSPIRATION (Gk. *theopneustos*) OF GOD – **GOD BREATHED!**

- All Scripture is profitable for *doctrine* (teaches us what is right); *reproof* (teaches us what is not right); *correction* (teaches us how to get right); *instruction in righteousness* (teaches us how to stay right). We must be about good works!

PSALM 1 reads,
Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
² *But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
And in His law he meditates day and night.
³ *He shall be like a tree*
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.
⁴ *The ungodly are not so,*
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
⁵ *Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,*
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
⁶ *For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,*
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

- 2 Peter 1:19-21 - *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

- A wise believer once wrote the following inspirational words,
“The Book contains the mind of God,
the state of man, the way of salvation,
the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.
Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved,
and practice it to be holy.
It contains light to direct you, food to support you,
and comfort to cheer you.
It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff,
the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword,
and the Christian’s charter.
It should fill the memory, rule the heart,
and guide the feet.
Read it slowly, frequently,
and prayerfully.”

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.
(1 Thessalonians 2:13)

