



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Understanding "The Last Days"

In 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Paul gives Timothy a clear picture of the **difficult** (perilous, violent, dangerous, hard, savage) times in which he was living. The phrase "**the last days**" here refers to the time when Jesus arrived on earth (Hebrews 1:1-2) and will continue until He returns. The last days were going on when Paul wrote this letter, has gone on for centuries, and have increased in intensity over that time. Things have gone from bad to worse and will continue to do so (2 Timothy 3:13-14). Knowing this is the case, we better pay attention to what Paul says. In the midst of the beauty of what God has done for us, in us, and through us, we must have a right understanding of the battle in which we live. Verses 2-7 lists 19 characteristics we can expect to see in people during these "last days." To hear more about these characteristics I encourage you to get online and listen to the message. Many of those demonstrating these characteristics will hold to a form of godliness although they have denied its power. They will appear religious and do religious things. They attend church, sing songs, pray, serve, and can sound incredibly spiritual, but have never experienced God's power in their lives. The true believer has the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through their lives. It is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life that enables the believer to grow in holiness, to endure suffering, and to make a difference for Jesus! Those who are counterfeits will be found out. They will be exposed and judged by God. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Am I anticipating victory while being prepared for battle?** We know that we are victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57) as well as conquerors (Romans 8:37). We know how the story ends! If we believe those things in the Bible, then we also must believe what the Bible says about us being in a spiritual war.

- **Will I remember my riches in the midst of rejection?** If you follow Jesus and serve Him, you will experience opposition and many times in America that manifests itself in the form of rejection. We must not minimize the difficulty. We must not minimize the pain, the loss, and the hurt that can come as a result. We also must not minimize how rich we are in Christ! We will spend the rest of our days on earth and into eternity, because God is infinite, growing in our understanding of how rich we are. We must remember and grow in not only “what” is ours but “why” it is ours. We are rich because of the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus!
- **What am I doing to make sure I have an infusion of beauty while living in a world full of brokenness?** What are the things you need in your life that bring refreshment and causes you to acknowledge your Creator?

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