

# Thriving in Terrible Times

2 Timothy 3:1-17

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## Recognize and Reject the Hypocrite

(2 Tim 3:1-9)

- Its trouble that comes from the inside
- A fake form of religion that infects the church
- Revealed by corrupt character
- The proper response? Separation
- Be alert. Spiritual predators are ready to exploit our weaknesses
- Don't be overwhelmed by this culture of death. Pursue the things that lead to life

## Stay Connected to the Godly

(2 Tim 3:10-13)

- They help us make progress on the path toward Christlikeness
- Recognizing that confrontation and conflict are inevitable

## Stay Connected to God's Word

(2 Tim 3:14-17)

- It is the Divine instrument for both conversion and discipleship

# For Life Group Discussion

2 Timothy 3:1-17

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1. Read Psalm 1. What is the path to blessing? What is the fate of the wicked? What is it that separates one from another? Name at least one takeaway for your own life
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9.
  - Do you feel like you are living in difficult or terrible times? Why or why not? Why does Paul think they are terrible?
  - Read 1 Tim 4:1-2; 2 Pet 3:3; 1 Jn 2:18; and Jude 17-19. How do these passages affect your opinion?
  - Are you shocked by the characteristics of the hypocrites? How could they maintain "the appearance of godliness"? What kind of impact would someone like this have on the church, especially if they were in a position of leadership?
  - Have you personally witnessed the devastation of spiritual predators? Explain
3. Read 2 Tim 3:10-13. Other than Jesus, who has been your reliable guide? Who do you look to as an example of genuine faith?
3. Do you read (or listen to) Christian biographies? If so, what impact have they had on your faith? If not, will you start in response to this message?
4. Read 2 Tim 3:14-17. How has your life been shaped by the work of the Spirit thru the Word? Explain