

Woodland Baptist Church
March 18, 2018 - Morning Worship
2 Timothy 3:1-9, Terrible Times in the Last Days

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Remember the context of where we are in church history. Paul the apostle is in jail awaiting execution and he is writing what many have called his “last will and testament” to his young protege, Timothy.
- b) Paul and Timothy were battling for the gospel; false teachers had emerged as Paul had warned years ago when he said goodbye to the elders at Ephesus in **Acts 20:28-31**: 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.
 - i) Here Paul is just a few short years later, training Timothy to correct the very things he spoke of when he planted Ephesus years before.
- c) Let’s review for just a minute to get us back where we are for today:
 - i) 22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant[e] must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
- d) 1 Timothy 4: 1-5 - Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

2) READ 2 Timothy 3:1-9 - Terrible Times Will Come

- a) Paul has already alluded to this in 1 Timothy 4:1-5 -
- b) **Verses 1-9 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times [seasons] of difficulty [implication of violence].**

(1) What does Paul mean by the “last days?”

- (a) Acts 2:17 - Peter citing Joel 2 - ““And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
 - (b) James 5:3 - 3 Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.
 - (c) 2 Peter 3:3 - This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.
 - (d) Hebrews 1:2 - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
 - (e) 1 John 2:18 - 18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.
- c) The last days are normally understood as the time in between the first and second coming of Christ. Christ’s coming began the last days, meaning that the end is near.

3) Verses 2-5 - EIGHTEEN Signs of MORAL Decadence

- i) **2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.**

(1) **Lovers of self** - this goes beyond what we understand the Lord to say in the second greatest commandment - love the Lord you God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

- (a) Loving yourself in that context means basically to take care of your body physically, spiritually and emotionally. We do what we can with what we have to sustain and nurture our body.
- (b) But in this case, our love of self has taken a turn for the worse to idolatry. Now we worship ourself. We live a life of total consumption without even considering the needs of others.
- (c) Characterized by affections concerned chiefly with oneself and one's own advantages to the exclusion of others.

(2) **Lovers of money** - Paul has already discussed the love of money in his earlier writings - the love of money is the source of all kinds of evil; this is a natural outflow of an idolatrous view of one's self. We begin to rationalize our love of money. We don't really love our money, we are just providing the best life we can for our family.

- (a) Immoderately desirous of gaining wealth.

(3) **Proud** - boaster or a braggart - on his or her own accomplishments - an inflated view of one's self; a person who has a self-exalting, self-absorbed conceit of their own superiority; especially one that believes that all their achievements are of their own doing.

(4) **Arrogant** - ostentatiously proud - to be showy with yourself and what you have; showing or having feelings of unwarranted importance out of overbearing pride; the way children sometimes try to outdo one another with better toys.

(5) **Abusive** - being insulting - this word can be carried out to physical abuse;

(6) **Disobedient to parents** -

- (7) **Ungrateful** - a complete lack of thankfulness - thinking that you are entitled to everything you are given; someone brings you food...they are supposed to do that; someone helps you carry something...no gratitude; someone is faithful and true to you...no gratitude.
- (8) **Unholy** - not devoted to God - living and acting in ways that is completely devoid of thought concerning what God may think about it.
- (9) **Heartless** - hardhearted, unfeeling - a complete lack of compassion; unable to put yourself in the other person's position to try to understand where they are coming from. Just being hardcore on rules, rules, rules and not even trying to understand the spirit behind the purpose of the rule.
- (10) **Unappeasable** - being unwilling to be reconciled to others; not being able to come to a compromise with someone during a disagreement; my way, my way, my way.
- (11) **Slanderous** - attacking the reputation of another by slander - verbal or written.
- (12) **Without self-control** - unrestrained by morality; allowing your first instinctive response to fly regardless of whether or not it is the Christian way to respond. "I'm a tell it like it is" kind of person - well, just be sure that your telling it the way Jesus told it and you should be fine. Doing what you feel like doing instead of what is right.
- (13) **Brutal** - to be savagely violent; to have no regard for the collateral damage of what you are about to do; wild and menacing; no attempt to disguise unpleasantness.
- (14) **Not loving good** - characterized by a hatefulness of all things that are good by God's standard. Telling the truth; purity; obeying the law.
- (15) **Treacherous** - a person who violates and allegiance - a traitor.
- (16) **Reckless** - defiant disregard of danger or consequences.
- (17) **Swollen with conceit** - to be crazy arrogant.
- (18) **Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God** - always seeking pleasure or what feels right instead of what is true.

ii) **Having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.**

- (1) **Matthew 23:25-26 - 25** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.
- (2) **Matthew 23:27-28 - 27** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also

outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

iii) Avoid such people

4) CLOSE

- a) This passage should make us think deeply about our own walk with the Lord; do we display these characteristics? What characteristics should we display?

b) Verses 6-9

- i) **6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.**