

## 2 Timothy 3:1-13

7-24-05

*“Right Examples!”*

### 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Pray for Kosovo -
- 1.2. Maybe a proper **intro** from 2:26 would be, “*well speak of the devil!*”
- 1.3. If Paul wanted to encourage Timothy for the work of the ministry, you’d think he would tell him “*things are going to get better Tim!*”
  - 1.3.1. But Paul doesn’t paint a **false picture** of the future.
    - 1.3.1.1. **Instead**, prepares him for the **degeneration of society**. (1-5)
    - 1.3.1.2. **And**, the fact that **false teachers** will always be lurking around the church. (6,7)<sup>1</sup>
  - 1.3.2. Paul doesn’t end on that depressing note, but assures Timothy **God has the final word**.

### 2. **EXPECT TERRIBLE TIMES! (1-9)**

- 2.1. **Intro:** (1)
- 2.2. Vance Havner says that our day is one of **anarchy** in the world, of **apostasy** in the church and of **apathy** in the individual believer. Eph. 5:16
- 2.3. **In the last days** – Actually **began** w/the life & ministry of Christ.
  - 2.3.1. **Read** - Heb.1:1,2.
  - 2.3.2. The NT indicates that “**the last days**” refers particularly to the state of the church before the coming of Christ.
- 2.4. **Perilous times** – “*difficult, hard to deal with, dangerous.*”
  - 2.4.1. It is the same Greek word for the demoniac in Mt.8:28 & translated “*exceedingly fierce.*”
- 2.5. **Q:** So, how do we live for Christ in such *exceedingly fierce* times???

  - 2.5.1. **1<sup>st</sup> Expect Terrible Times!** (2-9)
  - 2.5.2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Follow the Right Examples!** (10-13)
  - 2.5.3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Stick with the Scriptures!** (next week, 14-17)

- 2.6. **[1] EXPECT TERRIBLE TIMES!** (2-9)
- 2.7. If you’re looking for a soon coming paradise on earth...you are in for a rude awakening!
  - 2.7.1. To believe this doesn’t make us a **pessimist** but a **realist!**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chuck Swindoll.

<sup>2</sup> Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.798

- 2.7.2. Read any paper any day, [N.C.Times.com 7-23-05]  
 CHARLESTON, S.C. -- A former school bus driver has been sentenced to five years in prison for accepting a **\$10 bribe** to ignore two students as they sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl, authorities said. - The bus was equipped with a 911 panic button to alert authorities to problems, but Bolen never triggered the device during the assault in January. The bus drivers name was **Lacey Jane Bolen**, 26, of Goose Creek, she pleaded guilty Wednesday.

## 2.8. Vices of the False-Teachers!

### 2.9. Couplets:

- 2.10. Lovers of themselves, lovers of money –
- 2.11. Boasters, Proud –
- 2.12. Blasphemers, disobedient to parents – Sounds like many cartoons today!
- 2.13. Unthankful, unholy –
- 2.14. Unloving, unforgiving – Their natural domestic affections were smothered.
- 2.15. Slanderers, w/o self-control –
- 2.16. Brutal, despisers of good(not loving) – brutal = savage, untamed beast.
- 2.17. Traitors(used of Judas Iscariot....i.e. a *Judas adjective!* Lk.6:16), **headstrong** –
- 2.18. **Haughty**(swollen w/conceit)
- 2.19. Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God(2 Greek words: philo/love & hedonai/pleasure) – They were controlled by pleasure!
- 2.20. Note the emphasis on **the wrong kind of love!** (an *inside-out* love!)
- 2.20.1. **Self-Love** becomes the **Trademark** of the last days!
- 2.20.2. **[1] Lovers of Themselves!** (2a) – Not even hugging trees, only themselves!
- 2.20.3. **[2] Lovers of Money!** (2b) –
- 2.20.4. **[3] Unloving!** (3a) – True affection almost disappears; unnatural affection will prevail.
- 2.20.5. **[4] Without Love!** (3b) –
- 2.20.6. **[5] Lovers of Pleasure!** –
- 2.20.7. **[6] Not, Lovers of God!** –
- 2.20.7.1. The 2 main commandments to: **love God & love their neighbor**, has been *turned on its head!*
- 2.20.7.2. You could sum this up w/the 1<sup>st</sup> & last statements: “**they will be lovers of themselves...rather than lovers of God**”
- 2.20.7.3. When **love of God** is replaced w/**love of self**, all sorts of vices inevitably follow.
- 2.21. (5a) To sum them up, they have a **form of godliness, but no power of godliness** – **A Bogus Godliness!**

- 2.21.1. **A form – the last days will have plenty of Religion!**  
 2.21.1.1. Religion will be rampant!  
 2.21.1.2. They will be experts on **externals!**  
 2.21.1.2.1. “They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.” 1 Tim.4:3  
 2.21.1.3. They may **Believe in the bible**(of course their own interpretation), be **Creed-Confessing**(I did that for 19 years), **yet be absolute phonies...forms w/o substance!** {Cotton Candy Christians}  
 2.21.1.3.1. **Or** they are like those *high-tech cryogenic flash frozen “Dippin Dots”* – It’s just not real ice cream!!!  
 2.21.1.4. Yet it will be a **mere imitation**, a **mere form** of godliness **w/o** the *life changing power* of God!  
 2.21.1.5. **The Bible** still remains to be a **national best-seller**, **yet the crime rate increases & problems multiply.**
- 2.21.2. **No power** – i.e. the power that brought Jesus out of the grave and which enters into every soul committed to Christ.  
 2.21.2.1. **W/o** such power, the Christian Religion is an **empty shell.**<sup>3</sup>  
 2.21.2.2. Examine their inner lives...they know nothing of practical godliness!  
 2.21.2.3. They are Christians, no doubt, **in name & yet there is neither substance nor fruit** in their Christianity.<sup>4</sup>  
 2.21.2.4. You could say they are **“Formal Christians”**...they have empty **form!**
- 2.21.3. **It is still possible to be lost in today’s church!**
- 2.21.4. I think it is getting easier to acquire a *“form of godliness”*, to subscribe to all the right subcultural expressions & customs...& yet be denying its power, by the quality of our lives.<sup>5</sup>
- 2.22. **(5b) Only one solution!** – Turn Away! Stay away!  
 2.22.1. *“Have nothing to do with them”*(NIV); *“Avoid such people”*(ESV).
- 2.23. **Gullible Gals!** (6,7)  
 2.23.1. Let’s read about their **“Women’s Ministry”!**  
 2.23.2. They were most effective among gullible gals. (not women in general)  
 2.23.2.1. Women who were **undisciplined & probably full of guilt** from their sins.  
 2.23.2.2. Which made their ears itching to hear the next best thing to repentance. **Anything but Repentance!**  
 2.23.3. **Creep into households** – by stealth. They were religious sneaks.

<sup>3</sup> C.A. Trenthem.

<sup>4</sup> Kent Hughes; pg.224

<sup>5</sup> Ibid; pg.225

- 2.24. **Jannes & Jambres!** (8,9)
- 2.24.1. **Jannes & Jambres** were magicians in Pharaoh's court who imitated the miracles that Moses performed. (Ex.7:8-13)
- 2.24.1.1. **Though they are not named there.** [Are named in **Jewish Targums** (Aramaic translation); & even **Pagan Writers** mention them]
- 2.24.1.2. **Were able to duplicate:** Aaron's rod to a snake; Water to Blood; Frogs; but not the lice! **Read Ex.8:18,19**
- 2.24.2. These **teachers** opposed the **truth** w/the same level of intensity that the **Egyptian magicians** that opposed Moses & Aaron.
- 2.24.2.1. Oh, they may **dress the same**, have the **same religious paraphernalia**, own the same brand of a leather bound **Holy bible**, **but they enslave people!**
- 2.25. **Satan is the great imitator, & his imitation gospel & church will spread in the last days.**
- 2.25.1. But just as **Jannes & Jambres** were **eventually exposed** as **frauds** before God's power... so **false teachers** will surely be exposed by the light of God's Word.
- 2.25.1.1. Eph.4:13b-14 (New Century Version) **"We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection. Then we will no longer be babies. We will not be tossed about like a ship that the waves carry one way and then another. We will not be influenced by every new teaching we hear from people who are trying to fool us. They make plans and try any kind of trick to fool people into following the wrong path."**
- 2.25.1.2. Their folly will be clear to everyone!
- 2.26. **[2] FOLLOW THE RIGHT EXAMPLES!** (10-13)
- 2.27. So, where do you find the **strength & wisdom & guidance** to **resist & overcome** such opposition?
- 2.27.1. Well, 1 way is **watching mentors** that are a **genuine example!**
- 2.27.2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> again is **the Instruction of Scripture**(we'll look at next week).
- 2.28. For many yrs **Monterey**, a California coast town, was a **pelican's paradise**. As the fishermen cleaned their fish, they flung the offal to the pelicans. The birds grew fat, lazy, and contented. - Eventually, however the offal was utilized, and there were no longer snacks for the pelicans. When the change came the pelicans made no effort to fish for themselves. They waited around and grew gaunt and thin. Many starved to death. They had forgotten how to fish for themselves. The problem was solved by importing new pelicans from the south, birds accustomed to foraging for themselves. They were placed among their starving cousins, and the newcomers immediately started catching fish. Before long, the hungry pelicans followed suit, and the famine was ended. Bits and Pieces, June 23, 1994, p. 17<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.

- 2.29. (10,11) Carefully followed my doctrine(teaching), manner of life(conduct), the purpose that motivated his life(Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God), faith(that sustained him in trial), the longsuffering, love(Toward all), & perseverance(endurance, to the end) he showed...even when persecuted!  
 2.29.1. And the wonderful way God took care of him through it!  
 2.29.2. I would not give much for your religion unless it can be seen.  
 2.29.2.1. Lamps do not talk, but they do shine.
- 2.30. Paul names 3 cities in the area of Timothy's home, so Timothy would be familiar w/them. (Pisidian Antioch)  
 2.30.1. Timothy, remember Lystra? – Acts 14. he was there with Paul when they stoned him & dragged him out of the city, supposing him dead.  
 2.30.1.1. What a memory for Timothy, how Paul was rescued right before his eyes by God!  
 2.30.1.2. And he was delivered time & time again, & he would do the same for Timothy if he willed to do so.  
 2.30.2. Actually God "always" rescues His people...either in this life, or by taking them to heaven!  
 2.30.2.1. And God's final rescue of Paul was the best of all!<sup>7</sup>
- 2.31. No Ivory Tower experience here for Paul!  
 2.31.1. He knew what it was to suffer hardship for the gospel.  
 2.31.2. Although the enemies of the faith may have seemed victorious for the moment, they would not gain ultimate victory because they were opposed to God!  
 2.31.3. If Jannes & Jambres were ministers of Satan's work, then Paul is our best example of a worker for the Lord!
- 2.32. Paul had been a divine object lesson to young Timothy.  
 2.32.1. Q: Who are you being a Divine Object lesson to?

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<sup>7</sup> Kent Hughes; pg.233