



Sunday May 21, 2017
2 Timothy Series
Chapter 3 : Continue in Truths You Have Learned

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 3

Prophecy about the End Times

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

We know all of the above are actually being played out before us, globally.

Just bring out attention to vs 5.

It is interesting that Paul clubs even religious people with the rest of the kinds of people he mentioned.

There will be people who will be religious, embracing our form of religion.

They will be able to say all the right things, even claim to believe all that we believe and do the right things.

But they will deny the power (*dunamis*) of the Lord Jesus Christ, His power to transform lives, to heal, deliver, set free, work miracles.

Paul says, from such people, just stay away.

One reason is because, given the times we live, we desperately need the power of the Lord at work to be able to stand ourselves and to make a difference in this world. An empty powerless form of religion will not have any impact on deep darkness that prevails on the world in the last days.

Sneaky Men, Gullible Women

6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

"For of this sort" - men who engage in vs 1-5, especially referring to the religious bunch who have a form of godliness but no power.

They sneak into homes where they take captive weak and gullible women, themselves in sin.

These women are "always learning" - they just like to talk, listen and discuss "new truth"...but they will never accept, embrace and live by the truth.

I think here is a very strong reason why pastors/men of God must not visit homes, when husbands are not around!



Men of corrupt minds

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;
9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Paul continues talking about "these ..men"..the same kind of people he has been talking about in vs 5-7.

Now Paul compares "these men" to Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses.

Now lets read the account of Moses in the book of Exodus, his first meeting with Pharaoh:

Exodus 7:7-13

7 And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.
8 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
9 "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.' "
10 So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.
11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.
12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.
13 And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

The Old Testament does not give us the names of the magicians. So the apostle Paul may have obtained the names Jannes and Jambres, from his education of ancient Jewish literature, which may have been the most likely case. Or it could have been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. Either way, the Holy Spirit, led the apostle Paul to write the names of these two men, who were part of Pharaoh's group of wise men, sorcerers and magicians.

The first 3 miracles that Moses did by the power of God (rod becoming a snake, water turned to blood, frogs came out of the waters) the sorcerers were also able to do. The fourth miracle, they were not and they responded that it is the finger of God or the power of God (Exodus 8:18-19).

Here is what Paul states about "these men" in the last days.

In addition to them having a form of godliness without the power, sneaking into peoples homes, by a proper comparison with the sorcerers in Egypt, they are also involved in "spiritualism" and the occult.

Paul goes on to say that such men:

- They resist the truth - oppose the truth, fight the truth
- They are men of corrupt minds - evil, sick minds, twisted in their thinking
- Disapproved concerning the faith - their faith is not real, it is false, worthless, counterfeit



- They will progress no further - they won't get too far with what they do
- Their foolishness will be exposed

Would like to make two important comments here:

#1, We must press in for more of the supernatural power of God, and not back away from it, given what will happen in the last days

#2, We must stand firm in our faith demonstrating greater measures of God's power, until the foolishness and worthlessness of those who oppose the truth are exposed.

#1, God did not tell Moses to stop doing signs and wonders and take up a different strategy, when the sorcerers and magicians at Egypt performed some of the counterfeit miracles through satan's power.

We know from Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:1-3, and also from what the Lord Jesus foretold that in the last days there will be increased measure of false and counterfeit teachers, workers of satan. If anything, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ has to press in to asking God for more of the power of the Holy Spirit to be manifested and demonstrated.

#2, While satan has the ability to counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, his power has a limit.

Just like what happened in Egypt, when Moses confronted Pharaoh.

The Church needs to come into a place to demonstrate greater power and greater glory of the Lord our God.

Let's keep pressing in for more of the manifestation of God's power!

Timothy's Training By Association

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Timothy had the privilege of working closely with the apostle Paul for about 18 years.

Paul treated him as a son in the faith.

Paul let Timothy see him and various aspects of his life.

This is how we raise up our Timothy's.

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

No exemption from persecution!

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.



Paul reiterating the fact of what will happen in the last day.

So the Church must grow stronger and stronger in the truth, in holiness, purity and power to counteract what will happen.

The word "imposters" actually is "wizards" someone who mutters spells.

We will see an increase in people involved with the occult, the wrong source of power, and use this to deceive many.

Continue in what you have learned

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Continue in the truth, because you know :

- from whom you have learned them
- from where (the Holy Scriptures) you have learned them

Two important lessons:

#1, We have to be men and women of credibility. Our message is credible because we are credible. If people trust us, they can trust what we say.

#2, We have to establish people in the Holy Scriptures.

All Scripture - Our Equipping for life and ministry

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul then points Timothy to the Holy Scriptures - the Old Testament Scriptures which they had at that time.

Now we understand this to also apply to the entirety of the New Testament Scripture - which was also authored by inspiration and revelation.

All of Scripture was inspired by God - was God breathed. Holy men of God wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21)

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

doctrine = teaching, learning

reproof = produce proof, evidence, conviction

correction = straightening up, rectification, reformation



instruction = education, training, nurture, correction, chastising

makes us:

complete = perfect

equipped = fully equipped, ready, well prepared

We need to give ourselves to the study and living by the Holy Scriptures.

KEY TAKE AWAY

2 Timothy 3

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15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Continue in what you have learned

MINISTRY TIME



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



2 Timothy Series

Chapter 3 : Continue in Truths You Have Learned

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) available at apcwo.org. You can also review the Sunday Sermon PDF notes. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: 2 Timothy chapter 3



INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights:

#1, What do you understand by "having a form of godliness, but denying its power" (vs 5). How would this be identified in our day and time?

#2, Given what we have been alerted to concerning the last days in this chapter, what should be a believer's stance - (A)to be strong personally and (B)to counter what will happen in the world in order to advance God's Kingdom, so that we have an advancing Church, not a defensive or worse still a retreating Church.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning from the Scriptures read today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and close by thanking God together.