

Series: Sound Doctrine

PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE

2 TIMOTHY 3

Text: 2 Timothy 3:16

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

Introduction:

This chapter speaks on the subject of apostasy.

The apostasy is that period of time before the rapture of the Church, when mankind will turn away from the divine revelation as set forth in the Scriptures.

They will substitute their own reasoning for what God has said in His Word.

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that is taking place in the world. Paul never speaks about stars falling, or earthquakes and famines. He never refers to any activities of the Antichrist. If Paul ever refers to the Antichrist, it is because he is correcting error.

This is what he is doing in Second Thessalonians, chapter two. In this chapter he deals with three matters—The Mighty Day, The Man of Sin, and The Mystery of Iniquity. We must always differentiate between "the last days" spoken of by the Apostle Paul, and the "last days," or "end times" predicted by the Lord Jesus.

If we apply the predictions of the Lord Jesus to the last days of this dispensation or age, we will have the Church, which is His body, going into the tribulation which is unscriptural.

In the opening of this third chapter, there are conditions that we face today. We will likely face them in more exaggerated forms in days to come. The happenings in these verses are true as they exist in the world today. Let us notice three things in this chapter that are clearly set forth and are related to the apostasy of our day.

Sermon Content

Note:

1. THE APOSTASY CLARIFIED (VS. 1-9)

2 Timothy 3:1-9

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

God does not want us to be ignorant about the conditions of the last days.

The Scripture tells us here that they are “perilous times.”

The word perilous means the reducing of strength, dangerous, difficult or dangerous.

These are the conditions that surround us on every hand and in every land. Let us spell out these conditions, as they are set forth in these first nine verses.

We have:

A. Deplorable Conditions (vs. 1-2)

2 Timothy 3:1-2

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

This is the personal aspect of the apostasy.

Men are lovers of their own selves. We certainly love ourselves.

We are "covetous". We want what we can't afford to pay for, and could likely do without, but the neighbors have it, even though they couldn't pay for it, so we feel we must have it.

The sin of covetousness is associated the sin of idolatry.

We are "boasters".

Our boasting certainly shows our pride.

Notice not only the Deplorable Conditions but also:

B. Domestic Chaos (vs. 2-4)

2 Timothy 3:2-4

² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

This is the social aspect of the apostasy.

It deals with the matter of disobedient children who are unthankful and unholy. We live in a generation of ingrates.

The ordinary natural affection that should exist between husband and wife, between children and parents, between brothers and sisters is about nonexistent.

Vows are made every day and broken the same day.

Godly, good people who are devoted to the cause of Christ are despised and rejected.

Many today love pleasure more than lovers of God.

Notice not only the Deplorable Conditions and Domestic Chaos but also:

C. Doctrinal Corruption (vs. 5-9)

2 Timothy 3:5-9

⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

This is the religious aspect.

The majority of church members have "a form of godliness", but it is only a form. It is as empty as a bucket upside down. It is as dry as burned sawdust. It gives no evidence of any kind of supernatural power.

This kind of people have no love for the Bible and no desire to pray.

Paul tells Timothy to stay clear of these, - "from such turn away."

Paul is so serious about this that he calls the names of those who were involved in this behavior.

Just to summarize the conditions again before we move on.

These perilous times are marked by:

1. Distorted Behaviour

The first thing said about these people sums up everything said about them. They are "lovers of self". Self-loving showed itself in self-importance. They were proud, ungrateful, and high-minded. Their self-loving attitude showed itself in self-indulgence. They were lovers of money, lovers of pleasure, and unholy. Then their self-loving showed itself in self-interest They were unconcerned about others.

2. Distorted Thinking

We have seen their behavior.

Now notice their minds. Their minds are corrupt. (v. 8)

Their minds are warped.

They have lost their power of reason.

A reprobate mind is a mind that is devoid of judgment.

If you try to show them a better way, they don't understand at all. Their manner of thinking has been such that it has ruined the very purpose of thinking. The third thing we see about these people and their condition is that they have:

3. Distorted Religion

They are religious people.

They have no Christ in their religion. They have nothing but the husks, the outward form.

They may attend church for social gain, or they may feel it is the proper thing to do because most respectable people do it on Sunday mornings, but they have no love for truth, or for the things which it produces.

We have considered the apostasy clarified note also:

2. THE APOSTASY CONTRASTED

We will briefly consider the blessing and beauty of truth.

2 Timothy 3:10

¹⁰ But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Paul's life was marked by three things:

A. Consistency In Living

Paul was able to say to Timothy, "You know my whole manner of life.

His whole life was open and above board. He was no hypocrite.

Paul's life was also marked by:

B. Continuance In Labor

Paul's whole purpose of life was to serve the Lord and to serve him well.

He never slowed his pace and never changed his course. At the end of his journey he looked back and said, "I have finished my course, I have kept the faith".

Paul's life was not only marked by Consistency and Continuance but also by:

C. Constancy In Loving

This was seen in his charity and patience.

Paul again speaks of these apostates in vs. 13.

2 Timothy 3:13

¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Paul again says three things about them in this verse:

- Their Progress – “worse and worse”
- Their Practice – “Deceiving”
- Their Penalty – “Deceived”

Note lastly:

3. THE APOSTASY COUNTERACTED (VS. 14-17)

2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

There are two matters dealt with in these verses.

A. The Man of God (vs. 14-15)

Timothy had been well taught and had been taught from a child.

He had been well trained in the Scriptures. His mother and grandmother were people with a strong faith.

His mind and heart had been saturated with the scriptures.

They had a tremendous effect in his life.

As Paul writes to him in this letter, he calls upon this young preacher not to forsake the Scriptures, but to continue in them as he had been taught in his childhood days.

Timothy was a "Man of God" who was well instructed in the Scriptures. God will use such a man in dark and perilous times to counteract apostasy. The man of God must know his Bible, if his testimony is going to be effective in an apostate world.

The second matter dealt with is:

B. The Word of God (vs. 16-17)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The word of God is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Close:

We are living in perilous times and that is why sound doctrine is so important.