



Living Well in the Last Days

2 Timothy 3:1-9

August 8, 2021

Pastor Casey Ehlers

Introduction

In the text today, Paul warns the young Pastor Timothy of the heretics and opponents that will be around the church during the last days.

The Text: 2 Timothy 3:1-9

¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

In the text today, Paul warns the young Pastor Timothy of the heretics and opponents that will be around the church during the last days.

1) Right Christian living understands that we are living in the “last days.” (v. 1)

A) The “last days” began with Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit...

a) Joel 2:28-32. → Acts 2:17-21

B) Christians should not be overly optimistic about living in the “last days.”

2) “Counterfeit Christians,” marked by a multitude of vices (vv. 2-5), will prey on the church with false doctrine. (vv. 6-8)

3) God will protect his church during these last days. (v. 9)

A) Christians should not be overly pessimistic about living in the “last days.”

Response

Christian, great wickedness abounds, be careful! Trust (in hope) that our God will purify and protect his church.

Sunday Text Questions for 2 Timothy 3:1-9 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: Do you tend to be pessimistic or optimistic about the world around you? Why do you think that is?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does it mean that we are living in the “last days?”
- 4) Re-read the vice list in verses 2-5. Do any of these 19-character traits stand out to you? Why?
- 5) What are some practical ways to avoid the people described in vv. 2-5?
- 6) What false heresies and beliefs exist in the world today that try to tempt and deceive Christians?
- 7) How does Paul use Exodus 7:11-12 to encourage Pastor Timothy in this text?
- 8) Christians are to not be too overly optimistic about living in the last days. Discuss what this looks like in practice.
- 9) Christians are to not be too overly pessimistic about living in the last days. Discuss what this looks like in practice.
- 10) How does this text teach you how to pray 1) for your church and 2) for the world around you?

Further study this week: Acts 2 (Mon); Philippians 1 (Tues); Philippians 2 (Wed); Philippians 3 (Thurs); Philippians 4 (Fri).