

PREPARED FOR THE DIFFICULT DAYS

2 Timothy 3:1-9

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A. The Difficult Times of “The Last Days” (3:1-7)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 3:1-7

The Last Days:

B. Root Causes and Dangerous Symptoms

➤ Misplaced Love

--Lovers of Themselves

--Lovers of Money: (Luke 16:13)

--Lovers of Pleasure Rather than Lovers of God (Psalm 16:11)

➤ Ungrateful: Romans 1:18-21

➤ Having an appearance of Godliness, but denying its power.

➤ Always learning, but never arriving at a knowledge of the truth:

C. Folly that Destroys—and the Folly that Rescues: (3:8-9)

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. **2 Timothy 3:8-9**

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For Further Study:

1. Our passage today talks about “the last days”. Several passages in the Bible address this theme. **1 Peter 1:20** and **Hebrews 1:1-2** point to when the last days began...while passages like **2 Peter 3:3**; **1 Timothy 4:1**; and **Jude 18** describe what these days will be like. In our passage, **2 Timothy 3:1** describes these days as “times of difficulty”. The only other time the word for “difficulty” is used in the Bible occurs in **Matthew 8:28** where the same word describes a demon possessed man that Jesus encountered. The warning is strong in today’s passage! There will be seasons of time after the ministry of Jesus where people will fall into dangerous, destructive ways of living.
2. Our passage today listed 18 sins that characterize the last days. A similar list appears in **Romans 1:18-32**. As you read through today’s list, which of these do you see prevalent in our world today? Which ones do you see when you look in the mirror?
3. One of the descriptions of people in these difficult days is that they will be “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God”. It is not a sin to pursue pleasure—as long as we strive to find that pleasure in our love for God! God is the only one who can and will truly satisfy us and give us joy. Read **Psalms 16:11** and look at what God offers those who pursue, trust, and love Him!
4. Jesus taught that the supreme love in our lives should be our love for God (**Matthew 22:37-39**). One of the greatest competitors in our lives will be our love for money. Look at these clear warnings from Jesus (**Matthew 6:19-21**; **Luke 16:13**) and from Paul (**1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19**).
5. If you look for the names “Jannes and Jambres” in the Bible, you won’t find them anywhere except in **2 Timothy 3:8-9**. These names come from various Hebrew traditions that assigned these names to two of Pharaoh’s magicians who tried to compete with God’s power displayed through Moses in **Exodus 7-9**.