**February 16, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**PERILOUS TIMES**

**II Timothy 3:1-17**

***II Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."***

In previous lessons, Paul has been cautioning Timothy of false teaching that will come in the church. In this lesson, Paul speaks prophetically of the last days. “The last days” refers to the period of time between Christ’s resurrection and the rapture and will culminate in Christ’s return to the earth to set up His kingdom. The prediction of perilous times indicates that apostasy will characterize the final days of the church age. Perilous times would be times of great uncertainty. Possibly, a better way to say this would be to say dangerous “hard” times. Paul lists the sinful attitudes and behaviors that will characterize these perilous times. This will be things that are happening primarily out of the church in society itself, but much of it taking place in the church, as well.

***II Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,"***

Being lovers of self produces all manner of wickedness in people. They will be savage wolves, full of pride and brutality, while lacking love and concern for others. There has never been a time when the statement "lovers of their own selves" was more true than in our society today. Children are taught that everything is relative to something else. They are not taught absolutes, especially of discipline. The Bible teaches absolutes. The child, that grows up believing himself to be the center of everything, finds it difficult to put God at the center of his life. They can easily fall into being lovers of their own selves. When you believe that you are the center of everything, then you believe that anything you want should be yours, even if it belongs to someone else. You can see that coveting is a form of loving yourself, as well. Bragging seems to be the rule of the day. Blasphemers are everywhere. We would have to look around us and say we are unholy as a society.

***II Timothy 3:3 "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,"***

One of the disgraces of our society today, is how we throw our parents away when they get old. We push their care off on someone who does not even know them. Mothers are abandoning their children. Women are destroying their unborn children. This is without natural affection. There was a time when a person would shake hands with you on a deal, and it was done. People did not sue each other over slight things. Now to ensure that an agreement is legal, you must have an agreement written down and signed before witnesses. People will break a truce if it advantages them. We do not know our neighbors, so we accuse them of things we do not know to be true. Incontinent means without self-control. Our rehabilitation hospitals can vouch for that. It is of national concern how to get people off alcohol and drugs. This is a society gone mad. Fierce describes what is going on with the drive-by shootings. This society makes fun of those who try to live holy before the Lord.

***II Timothy 3:4 "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;"***

True loyalty seems to be a thing of the past. For a few dollars, your best friend will do you in. The main one we are traitors to is ourselves. "Heady" means falling forward. The Bible would call this unstable in all thy ways. “Highminded” means to inflate with self-conceit. How many things in our life come before God? What excuses do we make for not worshipping in church? I can think of a few. How about golf, fishing, hunting, football, basketball, gardening, movies, etc. Anything that you enjoy more than fellowshipping with God falls into this category, {even work}.

***II Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."***

We may appear to be a Christian to the world, we may even profess to being a Christian. Nevertheless, they will operate under religious camouflage. They’ll hold to the form of godliness but deny its power. Paul’s warning to Timothy is a warning to us as all: Avoid these people. The false teachers whom Timothy was confronting projected an external display of religious devotion, but the power of God would not operate in them or through them. Theirs was a religion masquerading as godliness, a shadow without real substance. Religion without the presence and power of God is like wax fruit, it looks real but possesses no nutritional value. True godliness moves people from sin to righteousness. The question is, if you were on trial for being a Christian, could you be convicted by the evidence in your life? Would God declare you a Christian, by the condition of your heart, or would he say get away from me, I never knew you? Is the power of God working in you? God never changes. Do you believe that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, or have you put limits on the power of God?

***II Timothy 3:6 "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"***

This is speaking of someone who uses deception convincing those {silly women} who are not grounded in the Word of God, to follow a false teaching. Since the beginning of time the devil has used the deception of the women to try and destroy mankind.

***1 Timothy 2:9-14 (KJV)   
9  In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;   
10  But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.   
11  Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.   
12  But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.   
13  For Adam was first formed, then Eve.   
14  And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.***

***1 Corinthians 14:34-35 (KJV)   
34  Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.   
35  And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.***

***Revelation 2:20 (KJV)   
20  Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.***

***II Timothy 3:7 "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."***

This statement, coupled with the statement above, makes you realize that this could be false doctrines that appeal to the flesh of mankind. Paul commands Timothy to turn away from these false teachers who prey upon silly women laden with sins, who are especially susceptible to false teachers. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth condemns not intense study but some esoteric quest for truth apart from God’s Word. The women are more vulnerable, because they are the weaker vessel; yet extremely valuable because they are daughters of Sarah “the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.”

***1 Peter 3:1-7 (KJV)   
1  Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;   
2  While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.   
3  Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;   
4  But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.   
5  For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:   
6  Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.   
7  Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.***

***II Timothy 3:8 "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."***

The Bible does not tell us exactly who this Jannes and Jambres are. According to Jewish tradition, were the two magicians in Pharaoh’s court who attempted to duplicate Moses’ miracles. Even though they withstood, as the 10 plagues on Egypt progressed, we see the magicians proclaiming to Pharaoh that Moses' God was God, and they could not fight against Him. There will be a time when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is saying, those same people will resist the Truth {Jesus}. In the end, they will be like the magicians who realize and believe, but it will be too late. "Reprobate" means reject. These are those who have refused to believe in Jesus. Those who have corrupt or evil minds are not looking for the Truth. This is not speaking of an ordinary sinner. This is someone who has opposed God in every way. These would be sinners who have gone too far.

***Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV)   
4  For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,   
5  And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,   
6  If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.***

***Romans 1:28-32 (KJV)   
28  And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;   
29  Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,   
30  Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,   
31  Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:   
32  Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.***

***II Timothy 3:9 "But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all [men], as theirs also was."***

As sure as God overruled the Egyptian magicians, he would also overrule the false teachers and make their folly evident to all. We know that it did not take God and Moses very long to discredit the magicians, and it will not be hidden forever the evil of these with a reprobate mind either. Truth always wins out. When the Light of God shines on these deeds of these evil ones, it will be apparent to everyone their error. False doctrines, in a church, may flourish for a while, but when the Truth comes, it reveals the error of the false doctrine.

***II Timothy 3:10 "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,"***

Having reviewed the present circumstances and the dangers ahead, Paul encourages Timothy to continue to follow him. In contrast to the false teachers, Paul was known for his faith, patience, love, endurance, character and conduct that Timothy had adopted as his own. Paul is saying here that he has not hidden what he believes from anyone. The way Paul had conducted his life spoke for him, as well as the words he spoke. It was no secret to anyone that Paul had totally dedicated himself to the service of the Lord. He had fought hard, even in Jerusalem, for what he believed the doctrine of the church to be. He had conducted his life in a manner of self-sacrifice. He had endured stoning and many other hardships to bring the message of the gospel to the unsaved world. He said himself, that he would be all things to all people, that by all means he might save some. His purpose was to bring as many as possible to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. His faith had been undaunted by the hardships. He suffered long with the stripes, beatings, shipwreck, and the utter hate of his fellow Jews. He did not ask anyone to support him in the ministry. Most of his ministry, he was a tentmaker, so he would not be a burden to others. Those that did help him, was of their own free will, like the church at Philippi. His patience was demonstrated when he waited for years to even be tried for things, he was not guilty of.

***II Timothy 3:11 "Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of [them] all the Lord delivered me."***

The Jews persecuted him the most of any. The Lord was with him in every circumstance. None of the places mentioned here that he suffered were unto the death. That persecution would be reserved for Rome. Paul not only endured these persecutions but thought himself honored to endure them for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The true servant of God is others-centered, not self-centered. Paul maintained devotion to God and people in spite of the persecutions sufferings he had faced. His troubles were many and overwhelming, yet the Lord rescued him from them all. Timothy was not alone in his struggles. Paul had been through worse, and he could testify to the sustaining grace of God.

***II Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."***

***II Timothy 3:13 "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."***

Notice the universal nature of this statement: All who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Not everyone will suffer in the same way because persecution takes many forms, but if you seek to be a visible and verbal follower of Christ and give allegiance to his kingdom agenda in every area of your life, you will face significant opposition from the devil and the world. This was true in Paul's time and is also true today. Jesus had told Paul that he would suffer for the gospel's sake. Throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament, we find persecutions abound for those servants of God. Paul is saying that he is not alone in the persecution. It comes to all who serve God. This false doctrine had already started then, and the church was just a few years old. The only thing that would break this deadly chain of getting worse and worse, would be to come in direct contact with the Truth. A false doctrine does not get better as it is told. It comes from Satan in the first place and gets worse and worse every time it is told. When a person is evil, his conscience gets where it is not working. Each sin gets a little worse until he is totally consumed with sin. As Jesus told his disciples, “If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you”. Remember, we are not above our Master. But the good news is that whatever persecution you face, God can deliver you from it or through it.

***2 Corinthians 1:9-10***

***9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:***

***10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;***

***II Timothy 3:14 "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them];"***

What should Timothy do considering this reality? “Continue” in what you have learned and firmly believed. Continue literally means “remain.” Don’t deviate from your present course. Continue to follow God through Jesus Christ. Keep to the truth of his Word. Paul is saying, do not let your head be turned by all of these false doctrines. Stay with the good news of the gospel that was first presented to you. Apply the things you have learned more and more. Grow in the grace that God has provided for you. Paul reminds Timothy here, that not only are the things he learned true, but Paul was truthful, as well. He is saying to Timothy, you know I teach the truth. Paul knows, also, that Timothy's mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) had taught Timothy the Scriptures all his life. He needed to rely on the truths he had learned through them. The things which thou hast learned were his oral instruction in the holy scriptures (the Old Testament).

***II Timothy 3:15 "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."***

All of the books of men pale by comparison to the Holy Word of God. It seems that even when he was a child, his mother and grandmother had taught him of Jesus. It was part of his very fiber. They had taught him that salvation is in none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He had accepted Jesus for himself when he came to the age of accountability. Paul is saying to Timothy, do not let these teachings fade from your memory. Keep them ever before you. They were good enough to save you, they are, also, good enough to live by. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, and that alone. We remember, here, that Timothy was preaching where the Judaizers were trying to put him back under the law. Paul reminds him of what saved him.

***II Timothy 3:16 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"***

***II Timothy 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."***

The word "inspired" means God breathed. This refers to the supernatural guidance of the writers of Scripture by the Spirit of God, so that what they wrote was the divine Word of God, transcribed accurately, reliably, and without error in the original manuscripts (“autographs”). The word inspiration itself pictures God breathing out His Word to men. Not everything written by an apostle, or a prophet was necessarily inspired. Paul wrote at least three epistles to the Corinthians, but apparently only two were an inspired record (1 Corinthians 5:9). Samuel, Nathan, and Gad each wrote accounts of David’s life; only one of these prophets produced an inspired record (1 Chronicles 29:29). Additionally, all the miracles of Jesus were not written (John 20:31). However, since inspired scriptures are given to help Christians grow in maturity, they should rely upon them for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. For doctrine means to tell one what to believe. For reproof means to tell one what is wrong. For correction means to tell one how to correct wrong. For instruction in righteousness means to tell one how to live. Perfect (“proficient, capable”) is having everything needed to do what God wants. Thoroughly furnished means “thoroughly equipped.” God’s inspired Word, properly used and applied, provides all we need for life and ministry. God is the author of the Bible and people like Paul are the penman. God has always brought messages to His people through the mouth, or pen, of men.

***II Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost."***

The Bible is God's instruction to man for living victorious lives. You might think of it as a road map which guides us at every intersection of life. If we stick with the guide, it will keep us from taking the wrong turn. If the Bible says something, there is a reason. We may not understand the reason at the time, but if it says it, it has a purpose. We can learn from other's experiences in the Bible.

***I Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."***

If it were not for the Scriptures, we would not know how to be righteous. Righteousness is received, not earned. We are clothed in the righteousness of Christ. The word that was translated man in the verse above is not someone of the male gender, but a human being, man or woman.

***Acts 9:36 "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did."***

***Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."***

***I Timothy 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."***

Whoever you are, if you are called to work for God, you must set an example for others in the way you live. The most important thing in working for God, is the fact that you turn your will over to the Father. You must let the Holy Spirit teach you the Truth of the Word of God, that you might bring the Truth to others. Learn all you can about the Word of God, share with others what you know.

**Questions**

1. What kind of times will there be in the last days?
2. What does this mean?
3. Men shall be lovers of their \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does "holy" mean?
5. Describe "without natural affection".
6. What is a trucebreaker?
7. What does "incontinent" mean?
8. Having a form of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
9. Who are being led away in verse 6?
10. Who withstood Moses?
11. What does "reprobate" here, mean?
12. Their folly shall be known to all \_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. What reveals the error of these reprobates?
14. What did Paul say, that Timothy knew about him in verse 10?
15. Name some of the places where Paul was persecuted?
16. Yea, and all that will live \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus shall suffer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
17. Evil men and seducers shall wax \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
18. The Holy Scriptures will make you wise unto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. What does "inspired" mean?
20. That the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ unto all good works.