

## II Timothy – Perilous Times II Tim. 3:1-9

*Thesis: To help us understand that perilous times are here, and the importance of not resisting the truth of God.*

### Introduction:

- A. Paul warns Timothy that bad things are about to happen.
  - 1. He needed to be warned of them because of the terrible things that they were going to do.
  - 2. Many were going to fall into sin because they would follow after these men in this perilous time.
  
- B. Next week, we will notice how Paul tells Timothy to deal with these evil men (3:14-17).

- I. Paul gives Timothy a warning, saying that “perilous times will come” (3:1-5).
  - A. Timothy needed to know that terrible things were soon going to happen (3:1).
    - 1. The term “perilous” means “difficult” or “dangerous” (Strong’s).
    - 2. These “perilous times” were going to draw away members of the body of Christ.
    - 3. Because Timothy was in a position to teach these members, he needed to know exactly what was going to happen.
  - B. Paul lists 19 sins that are involved in these “perilous times” (3:2-5a).
    - 1. Lovers of themselves
    - 2. Lovers of money
    - 3. Boasters
    - 4. Proud
    - 5. Blasphemers
    - 6. Disobedient to parents
    - 7. Unthankful
    - 8. Unholy
    - 9. Unloving
    - 10. Unforgiving
    - 11. Slanderers
    - 12. Without self-control
    - 13. Brutal
    - 14. Despisers of good
    - 15. Traitors
    - 16. Headstrong
    - 17. Haughty
    - 18. Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.
    - 19. Having a form of godliness but denying its power.

- a. These are those who say that they are Christians, but only act as such when others are around that they can deceive.
- b. These are the most destructing to the church for two reasons.
  - 1) Those who are outside think that they are faithful when they are not.
  - 2) Also, those who are within the church can be more easily led away by them because they act like a Christian when others are around.
- c. Paul is talking about those who are in the church but are trying to destroy the church.

**C. It does not take long to realize that the perilous times are here.**

- 1. When we think of the sins that Paul names, we see them present in our world.
- 2. Unfortunately, not only are these kinds of people present in the world, they are present (at least to some degree) in the church.
  - a. They are the ones who are trying to destroy the church from within.
  - b. It is easy to look throughout the brotherhood and see those who are turning from the faith.
    - 1) These churches have been led astray by men who are considered to have a greater knowledge or understanding.
    - 2) For the most part, we call these men “change agents.”
    - 3) They have a form of godliness, but they deny its power.

**II. Paul tells Timothy that he is to stay away from such people (3:5b).**

**A. Timothy is not to have anything to do with those who commit such sins and cause division among the brethren.**

- 1. Because these brethren are the most dangerous, Timothy was told to stay away from them.
- 2. Only bad things could happen to him if he were to remain in contact with them.

**B. Today, we must learn to stay away from those within the church who have this kind of attitude.**

- 1. If there are going to be those who cause trouble for the Lord’s church, we must mark and avoid them.
- 2. Paul is warning Timothy to stay away from such people.
- 3. Notice what the Bible says elsewhere about staying away from those who cause divisions.
  - a. **Rom. 16:17** - Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.
  - b. **Titus 3:10-11** - Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, { 11 } knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

- c. **II Jn. 1:10-11** - If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; {11} for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

### III. Paul tells us the reason why we are to stay away from such people (3:6-9).

#### A. Those that have this kind of attitude are always looking for those to take captive (3:6-7).

1. This kind of person is actively seeking those that they can carry away.
  - a. They want those who are gullible and not paying attention.
  - b. Many times these are those who have sin in their life that they want to keep hidden from others.
  - c. They are easily persuaded to follow the doctrine of the destructive teacher.
  - d. Paul even says that this evil person will take away those who are always learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth.
    - 1) That is, they are always studying something, but never the right thing.
    - 2) They are like the Athenians, who gathered in the Areopagus “to tell or to hear something new” (Acts 17:21).
2. Timothy was to stay away from them because they were dangerous.

#### B. To help illustrate his point, Paul uses the example of Jannes and Jambres (3:8-9).

1. While the names “Jannes” and “Jambres” do not appear elsewhere in the Bible, they are commonly believed to be the Egyptian magicians who withstood Moses when he came to Pharaoh.
2. Notice the work of these false magicians.
  - a. **Ex. 7:10-12** - 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.
    - 1) These sorcerers of Pharaoh (Jannes and Jambres) did the same thing that Aaron did.
    - 2) Their staffs became serpents.
    - 3) However, the staff of Aaron swallowed their staffs.
    - 4) The point is that they knew that Moses and Aaron were greater, yet they resisted the truth.
  - b. **Ex. 7:22** (After Moses turned the water to blood) - Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

- 1) Again, we see that these sorcerers had the same power as Moses and Aaron.
  - 2) The difference was that they could not turn the blood back to water.
  - 3) Once again, they resisted the truth.
- c. **Ex. 8:7** (After Moses had brought frogs into the land) - *And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.*
- 1) Once again, the magicians were able to do the same thing that Moses and Aaron could do.
  - 2) Once again, however, they were not able to remove the frogs from the land.
  - 3) They had once again resisted the truth.
- d. **Ex. 8:18** - *Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast.*
- 1) This time, the magicians could not do what Moses did.
  - 2) They were unable to bring forth lice upon the land.
  - 3) This should have proven to them once and for all that they did not have the power that Moses had; yet once again, they resisted the truth.
3. While Jannes and Jambres could do some of the things that Moses could do, they could not do all of them.
  4. They should have known that Moses was speaking the words of truth, but they resisted that truth.

**C. Just as Jannes and Jambres resisted the truth that was in Moses, these evil men will resist the truth that is in God.**

### **Conclusion:**

- A. These perilous times are not something that comes from outside of the church; they come from within.
- B. Today, there are those who resist the truth, and they must be stopped.
- C. We cannot allow ourselves to fall into the trap that is set by these men, whether they are from within the church or without.