

### Introduction

The Apostle Paul was writing this from a prison cell in Rome, knowing that his own death was at hand! He warned his young son in the faith, Timothy, as well as us, of difficult days that were going to come in the last days!

Paul was saying that this wickedness that he describes here will reach to a **“perilous”** or **“exceedingly fierce”** point as the **last days** draw to an end. Now, we are not told how **“exceedingly fierce”** or **“perilous”** that it might get! But **we are seeing a rapid acceleration of the prevailing attitudes and actions of mankind in our time, especially this year!**

**Last week we dealt with the first seven of these attitudes and actions:**

1. **“Lovers of their own selves.”** (literally, **“fond of self”**)
2. **“Covetous”** (literally, **“fond of silver or money”**)
3. **“Boasters.”** (literally, **“braggart”**)
4. **“Proud.”** (The word translated **“proud”** here means **“appearing above others (conspicuous), that is, (figuratively) haughty”**)
5. **“Blasphemers.”** (**Given to bitter and defiant speech!**)
6. **“Disobedient to parents”**
7. **“Unthankful.”** (means *thankless; ungrateful*)

Tonight, we pick up where we left off there at the end of **Verse Two:**

8. **“Unholy.”** (The word **“unholy”** here means **“wicked”**)  
*i.e. Profane, indecent, shameless, given over to the most base passions, being blind to modesty, decency, purity, and righteousness.*

**Able to live in open wickedness without any shame.**

**The unholy person...**

- ...is mastered by his passions and his lusts! (i.e. incontinent)**
  - ...seeks constant gratification of the flesh! (i.e. hedonism)**
  - ...senses little to no shame! (i.e. shameless!)**
  - ...is blind to basic human decency! (i.e. wicked!)**
  - ...eventually will seek his pleasure in abnormal ways!**
- (Just think of the abnormal sex that is flaunted today!)**

**The late Dr. Oliver B. Greene had a very practical and straightforward comment on unholiness:**

*"This is an unholy age. People have lost respect for their bodies. Women (even church members, professing Christians) dress indecently and expose their nakedness. Men do the same. Men and women tear down the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

*A person who tears down and destroys his body through drink, tobacco, foods, and habits is unholy in his living.*

*This is an age when people have lost respect and reverence for a holy God, the holy Bible, and holy living. If you are 'a good mixer,' if you can play cards, dance, drink, dress indecently, laugh at a filthy joke, you are a wonderful fellow, a number one citizen; and you can teach a Sunday school class, pray in public, sing in the choir, and hold any number of responsible positions in the church. But the church member who refuses to drink cocktails, use tobacco, attend dances and parties, and who believes in old-time Christianity is called a fanatic or a 'religious square'"*

(The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to Timothy and Titus, p.335).

**Our airwaves are filled with explicit profanity.**

**Beyond the profane language are the profane subject matters that are addressed casually as being normal. Perversions that used to be looked down on by society and even were illegal in most states are now openly accepted and protected and applauded! There are even attempts being made to normalize pedophilia!**

And those who hold to the old standard of Biblical righteousness are the ones looked down upon and called bigots!

**2 Corinthians 7:1—***"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"*

**Hebrews 12:14—***"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."*

*1 Peter 1:16—"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."*

*2 Peter 3:11—"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness."*

9. **"Without Natural Affection"**

*i.e. Abnormal affection and love; heartless, without human emotion or love; a lack of feeling for others; abuse of normal affection and love.*

Man was originally created to be affectionate—to have affection for others. It is normal and natural for a person to have affection for his family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and to a certain extent for the stranger and fellow-citizens of the world.

But in the last days, people will be so set on satisfying their flesh and pleasure that natural love, by and large, will be forsaken.

The prevailing attitude will be set on a person doing their own thing and being so self-centered that they will have little natural affection for anyone or anything else.

1) **There will be little affection for the normal and natural!**

People will turn to the abnormal and the unnatural in relationships and behavior, pleasures and sex.

2) **There will be little affection for the home!**

Home will be nothing more than a place to change clothes and sleep.

3) **There will be little affection between husband and wife!**

A spouse (or more likely a significant other) will be little more than a person to help pay the bills and satisfy ones perverted needs or to keep up a front for social acceptance. Men and women will become more and more unfaithful and even more perverted.

4) **There will be little affection for friends, country, and earth!**

All will be abused and ignored, neglected and polluted!  
Selfishness will be the law of the last days!

- 5) **There will be little affection for God, Christ and His Church!** God, Christ, and the Church will be fit in only when they do not interfere with personal desires and pleasures, rest and recreation. And Church will be little more than just trying to ease or appease one's conscience.

*Mark 12:30-31—"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."*

*John 13:34-35—"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

*Romans 12:9-10—"Let love be without dissimulation [i.e. hypocrisy]. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."*

10. **"Trucebreakers."** means "one who violates a truce, covenant, or engagement." (i.e. Breakers of promises and agreements; untrustworthy, faithless, treacherous, and untruthful!)

What happens when a person's word can no longer be accepted as being his bond?

What happens in a home when the husband or wife breaks the covenant of marriage?

What happens between parent and child when one of them breaks their promise time and again?

What happens when an employer breaks his promise to his workers?

What happens when a worker slacks up in his work?

The last days Paul described will see what we are seeing in our society today: **a barrage of broken truces, covenants, and promises.**

*Ephesians 4:25—"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another."*

*Proverbs 12:19—"The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment."*

11. **"False Accusers."**

**i.e. Slanderers.** Note that the word translated **"false accusers"** is the Greek word **diabolos**, the very word for the devil.

William Barclay says:

*"The devil is the patron saint of all slanderers, and of all slanderers he is chief."*

*Slander is one of the most cruel of all sins. If a man's goods are stolen, he can build up his fortunes again; but if a man's good name is taken away, irreparable damage has been done to him.*

*It is one thing to start an evil and untrue report on its malicious way; it is entirely another thing to stop it....Many a man, and many a woman, who would never dream of putting his or her hand in other peoples' pockets and stealing their money or their belongings, thinks nothing—even finds a pleasure—in passing on a story which ruins someone else's good name, without even trying to find out whether or not the story is true.*

*There is slander enough in every village, and not infrequently in many a Church, to make the recording angel weep as he records these cruel words" (The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, p.217).*

12. **"Incontinent."**

**i.e. Undisciplined and uncontrolled; having no self-control.**

**It is being given over...**

- **to pleasure and indulgence**
- **to passion and sexual craving**
- **to lust and lewdness**

**It is a person who cannot control his passion for food, sex, pornography, sensuality, drink, drugs, whatever.**

**It is a passion that grips and enslaves a person until it becomes an unbreakable habit and bondage.**

*Romans 6:12—"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."*

*1 Corinthians 6:12—"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."*

*1 Corinthians 9:25—"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."*

*Galatians 5:22-23—"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

13. **"Fierce."**

**i.e. Savage and untamed.**

It is the same word that describes the savage beast in the wild that is unrestrained in its fierceness. It is a word that should never be true of people, yet tragically it is. Never in the history of the world have men become as fierce and savage as they are today.

1) **Some people no longer just murder...**

- **they mutilate**
- **they torture**
- **they kill at random**

- they kill by twos and threes and by thousands and millions (for example, Hitler, Stalin)  
And they take pleasure in their torture and savagery.

- 2) Some people no longer just correct and rebuke children, spouse, friend, neighbor, employee, or stranger...
- they curse
  - they abuse
  - they attack
  - they damage
  - they act violently

**The last days will see an increase in fierce and savage behavior!**

*Ephesians 4:32—"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

*Colossians 3:12—"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering."*

14. **"Despisers Of Those That Are Good."**  
Literally means, **"hostile to virtue."**

**This refers to people despising both good people and good things.**

**Hostile to those who speak up for what is right!**  
**Hostile to those who take a stand for what is good!**  
**Hostile to those who take a stand against sin!**

*Isaiah 5:20—"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"*

### Conclusion

We're not done yet, but we're done for this evening! We've looked at seven characteristics last week, seven characteristics this week, and we still have another seven to look at LORD willing next week!

What should be our response as we read and consider these verses and the attitudes and actions that are listed here and are being played out before our very eyes?

Realize that our time is short. What we do for Christ must be done now! We cannot sit back and think we have plenty of time! We are living in perilous times! People are bound in sin and we have the key! Jesus!

Paul challenges us to be not unwise...but understanding the times...take full advantage and do all we can to see others brought to a saving knowledge of Him!

We can see the condition of our society, we can see the need of those around us, but the question remains, what will we do?

Paul admonishes Timothy with regard to the last days, but also with regard to Timothy's responsibility to live godly in the midst of a darkened world!

We must be the light! We must shine that others might see our good works and glorify God. What do others see when they look at us?