

Introduction

The Apostle Paul, writing this from a prison cell in Rome, knowing that his own death was at hand, 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 described the times getting *“perilous”* or *“exceedingly fierce”* before 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 these prevailing attitudes and actions of mankind that are listed here in our time, especially this year!**

We have dealt with fourteen of these attitudes and actions. Tonight, we look at seven more attitudes and actions that go with these perilous times.

Tonight, we pick up where we left off. (See *Vs 4*)

15. **“Traitors.”** (*Vs 4*)

Giving over to an enemy’s hand.

This applies to those betray a trust...

- of one’s country (e.g. The *“Deep State”*)
- of one’s friends (e.g. Our President’s confidants)
- of one’s family (e.g. The RHINO’s voting Democrat?)

The most tragic betrayal of all though is the person who betrays the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church and try to bring them down in the eyes of the world.

The last days will see an increase in traitors.

Mark 13:12—“Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.”

16. **“Heady.”** (*Vs 4*)

i.e. Falling forward or falling headlong. Headstrong and reckless, rash and hasty—all without giving much if any thought to the consequences. Reckless is probably the best description.

A heady person is a person who thinks he knows what is best and so he thinks he can live and act recklessly, without there being any consequences.

The reckless person thinks little about what he is doing; he just enjoys the feeling and pleasure. He enjoys the stimulation and excitement; the consequences matter little in the midst of the pleasure and excitement.

Think of how much hurt and damage is done when a person lives only for the pleasure of the moment!

17. **“Highminded.”** (*Vs 4*)

To envelop with smoke, that is, (figuratively) to inflate with self conceit by being puffed up and conceited; having feelings of self-importance.

It is a person who feels so educated, so scientific, so advanced, so high in position and authority, ability, or gifts that he feels completely self-sufficient. He feels no need for God. He thinks he is above God as well as above most people.

Romans 12:16—“Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits”

1 Corinthians 8:2—“And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.”

Galatians 6:3—“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”

Philippians 2:3-4—“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

Proverbs 3:7—“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

Proverbs 26:12—"Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him."

Isaiah 5:21—"Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"

18. **"Lovers Of Pleasures More Than Lovers Of God." (Vs 4)**
Fond of pleasures more than being fond of God.

There is a term for that which isn't used very much any more.
It is being "*Hedonistic.*"

Hedonism is the belief in pleasure as the highest good and the proper aim of humans. "*If it feels good, do it!*"

19. **"Having A Form Of Godliness, But Denying The Power Thereof." (Vs 5)**

Having an appearance of godliness (a semblance of piety), but contradicting or rejecting the power to truly be godly! Giving lip service to God, but not living for Him!

We might say religious, even very religious, but not godly!

20. **Gullible people will be led astray. (Vs 6-7)**

"*Silly*" here is the sense of being spiritually dead, weak, immature, and unstable.

Though it says women, it should always be remembered that men can be just as gullible as women, just as spiritually dead, weak, immature, and unstable.

The present passage zeros in on women because of the local situation in Ephesus; some of the women in the Ephesian Church were following the corrupt ministers.

But the warning is applicable to both men and women! We must guard against being deceived.

Note the kind of people who most easily influenced.

People...

- who are laden or burdened down with sins and guilt.
- who are easily swayed and led away by all kinds of desires and lusts.
- who are seeking after truth—who are listening and learning all they can from anybody who **claims** to have the truth.

When a person begins to seek the truth because he senses a need in his life...senses that he has been living only for his own selfish desires and lusts...that person is wide open for a corrupt minister to step in and lead him astray.

Unfortunately, this is exactly what happens all too often. And note the great tragedy: *the person is never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.* Why? Because they never seek the truth in Christ. They only seek a "*form of godliness,*" **not true godliness. True godliness is found in Christ alone and nowhere else.**

1 Timothy 3:16—"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

21. **These folks resist the truth.**

Because their minds are corrupted, that is, their understanding of the Gospel is twisted, distorted, and depraved.

They do not follow the glorious news and power of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note in **vs. 8-9** the reference to **Jannes and Jambres**. These were two Egyptian religious leaders who opposed Moses when he went to Pharaoh to deliver Israel out of slavery.

These two stood toe to toe with Moses and resisted the truth, but in the end they were shown to be inadequate.

LAST DAYS—PERILOUS TIMES—PART 3

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

Though they were able to replicate some of Moses' miracles (rod to snake, water to blood) they were limited in their abilities!

(*Cp. Exodus 7:1; Exodus 8:7; Exodus 9:11.* The two men are not named in the Old Testament, but they are mentioned in other Jewish religious writings. Their names were apparently well known to all Jews.)

They could go just so far, but then they could "*progress no further.*" So it is with the deceivers of today, they may mimic and counterfeit the work of God, but they are limited in how far they can go.

William Barclay describes the resistance to the truth of the gospel:

"The Christian leader will never lack his opponents. There will always be those who prefer their ideas to God's ideas. There will always be those who wish to exercise power and influence over people and who will stoop to any means to do so. There will always be those who have their own twisted ideas of the Christian faith, and who wish to win others to their mistaken belief. But of one thing Paul was sure—the days of the deceivers were numbered. Their falsity would be demonstrated; and they would receive their own appropriate place and reward" (The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, p.223).

Conclusion

What should be our response as we read and consider these first **9 verses**? Realize that our time is short. What we do for Christ must be done today! 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 not to be unwise...but to understand the times...and 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 what will we do?

As we look at the rest of this chapter, we'll see that 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?