

Subject: *Right Living in a World Gone Wrong*

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1-7, 13-17

The world is not getting better and being a Christian is getting easier.

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN (vs. 1-7)

- The dangers in our world

We are not only living in difficult times, we are living in dangerous times. The word “perilous” means “dangerous.” It is the same word used in Mt. 8:28 to describe two demon-possessed men (“exceeding fierce”).

- The desires in our world

lovers of their own selves – people often ask, “What’s in it for me?”

covetous literally means “lovers of silver, money.” We are to love people and use money, but many people get it backward—they love money and use people.

boasters – people love to brag about what they have and what they do

proud – they are proud of their accomplishments, and even of their sins; some cities have a “gay pride week.”

without natural affection means callous indifference. It is natural for a husband to love his wife and a wife to love her husband, for parents to love their children and children to love their parents. We hear of so many crimes against family members. This describes the awful sin of abortion.

lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God – the world has gone mad over entertainment and amusement. People love to have a good time more than to serve God.

- The defiance in our world

Look at the words that describe it: “blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...truce breakers...incontinent (no self-control), fierce (savage). What an accurate picture of our world today. Think of all the movies that satisfy the craving for violence. “Despisers of those that are good” describes people who think Christians are the problem, like wicked King Ahab who said to Elijah, “Are you the one who troubles Israel?” (1 Kg. 18:17).

- The deception in our world

Millions of people are deceived by false religion. The world is full of religion. There are more different religions today than ever before. People love religion and the devil loves religion. Religion can’t change a person’s heart and it provides a false cure. It’s like putting a band-aid on cancer. It has a “form of godliness, but denies the power thereof.” Many are deceived by thinking that more information is the answer (vs. 7). We are living in the information age. We have more books, more schools, more opportunities for learning than ever before, but knowledge and information have not solved our problems. And it’s only going to get worse. More people will deceive and more will be deceived.

This is a dangerous world, a defiant world, a deceptive world, and a dark world. But there is good news: we have the light of God’s Word. The world is getting darker, but God’s Word is still a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Ps. 119:105).

THE WORDS WE LIVE BY (vs. 13-17)

- The authority of Scripture

It is “God-breathed” which means it is the very words of God. When the Bible speaks, God speaks. He inspired it and therefore His absolute authority stands behind it. It is perfect and without any flaw. The Bible is not a book that man would have written even if he could because it condemns him and exposes his sin.

- The ability of Scripture

It tells us about Jesus and God’s plan of salvation. Jesus said in **John 5:39** *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.* The Bible tells us about Heaven and Hell, and how to gain the one and avoid the other. It reveals our sin and shows us the cure. Just reading the Bible and knowing the Bible won’t save us, but it gives us the wisdom to know that we are lost and how we can be saved. Salvation is through faith in Christ Jesus. **Romans 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

- The application of Scripture

The Bible is the book you never outgrow. Timothy learned it from the time he was an infant (“from a child”). Children are never too young to learn it. Adults are never too old to learn it. We need to learn it, love it, and live it.

Doctrine – what is right (what to believe and how to behave)

Reproof – what is wrong (what is wrong about us and the world – it’s like a mirror)

Correction – how to get right

Instruction in righteousness – how to stay right

Thoroughly furnished (fully equipped) – how to live for God and do what He wants

The best translation of the Bible is the one that takes the words on paper and translates them into everyday life. Warren Wiersbe said it well: “The times are not going to get better, but we Christians can become better people, even in bad times.” There is a good story from World War II. The coal miners had gone on strike in England, and to remain on strike for any length of time would have hurt their country. In the midst of the strike Sir Winston Churchill decided to give them a talk. This is part of what he said: “When the war is over I will walk down the streets of London and I will say to the factory worker, where were you while the war was on? And the factory worker will say, I was doing my job in the factory for my family and my country. I will say to the farmer, where were you while the war was on? The farmer will say, I was on the farm tilling the soil and growing crops for my family and my country. I will meet a soldier and I’ll ask him, where were you while the war was on? And that soldier will say, I was out there in the trenches with a gun in my hand fighting a war for my family and my country. Then I will meet a coal miner and will ask him, where were you when the war was on? That coal miner will say to me, I was deep in the mine, mining coal for my family and my country.” After hearing the speech the miners went back to work.

Some day we will see the Lord and He may ask: “Where were you when the war was on down on earth?” I hope we will be able to say, “Lord, I was there in the heat of the battle with my Bible in hand, learning it, loving it, and living it.”