

**Thursday, July 6, 2023 ◻ 2Timothy 3:1-5**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What is the initial command in v1? What days does Timothy need to know about for his ministry? What sort of times will they be? What will men love in such times (v2)? What will they be like in their view of themselves? With their mouths? Toward earthly authority? Toward God? Toward peers (v3)? Toward evil and good? What further traits does v4 describe? To what does the list return at its end? What does v5 surprisingly say such people have? What does their conduct show that they deny? What is Timothy to do with people who have the two of these things?*

**What makes for dangerous times and dangerous people?** 2Timothy 3:1-5 looks forward to the second serial reading of in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the great danger of the last days is the danger of Jesus's Name on our lips without Jesus's life or power in our heart**.

"Know this" is similar to the apostle's desire that his readers not be ignorant (cf. 1Cor 10:1, 2Cor 1:8, 1Th 4:13). Here, it is phrased as a command. Believers are expected to learn information and apply that information. In Timothy's case, he is especially to understand something as a minister in the last days, who is training other ministers for the last days. One might have thought that the spread of the gospel in the last days would make them safe times. But the apostle warns that they will actually be dangerous times.

What makes them dangerous times? Dangerous men. They will be full of all sorts of sin: pride, blasphemy, disobedience, ingratitude, profanity, lacking natural affection, irreconcilable, etc. The list has much overlap with the one in Rom 1:29-31. Sadly, this group has "a form of godliness." In other words, this is the church. Sometimes we hear ministers talking about the church as if the people in it don't behave any better than the people outside of it. The apostle here says that this occurs, but not by way of encouragement, but warning. Such times are not happy times when grace is known; they are dangerous times. Many claim to know Jesus as Lord, whom Jesus the Lord says that He never knew—*because they lived a sinful manner of life* (cf. Mt 7:21-23).

There were some people whom Timothy was told to avoid because they were just argumentative rather than persuadable (cf. 2:23). Those whose lives aren't dominated by love for God fall into the same category. The bookends of the list give us the clue about whom to avoid: they love self, silver, and pleasure, but they don't actually demonstrate any love for God.

It's so dangerous to be inoculated against saving reality that the apostle warns, "from such people turn away!" If the Jesus whom they profess is not one Who changes the life, turn away from them! They're too dangerous. They make it look like there's a Christianity without holy living, like there's a Christ Who doesn't sanctify, Who doesn't produce love of God in the heart. But such a Jesus, such a Christ, is not the One Who made the worlds, Who died for sinners, and before Whom we will stand on the last day.

How does love of God stir you up, in your own life, against the various sins in this list, so that you are not the dangerous man? How do you know if someone else, who sounds and looks like they may be godly, is actually dangerous? Whom can you expect to be a good model to follow in turning away from such people?

*Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for making us to live in a time when Christ is known and Christianity is known. Forgive us for how easily we fall for a form of religion that doesn't come with the life-transforming power of the Lord Jesus. Forgive us for failing to turn away from others who live this way. Grant that Christ, by His Spirit, would fill our hearts with love for God and hatred for sin, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH466 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**

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Second Timothy 3 versus 1 through 5. These are God's words. But know this that in the last days, perilous times will come For men will be lovers of themselves. Lovers of money. Posters proud. Blasphemers. Disobedient to parents. I'm thankful. Unholy. On loving. Unforgiving. Slanders. Without self-control. Brutal. Despisers of good.

Traitors. Had strong. Lovers of pleasure. Rather than lovers. Of god. Having a form of godliness. But denying its power. And from such people. Turn away.

So far the reading of god's inspired and An errandsworth.

Paul is warning Timothy. That the last days. In which paul has been ministering or Going to continue to be the last days. In which Timothy ministers. One of the great reasons that this letter was written. Was so that he might recognize Those, the lord is redeeming. And giving. To grow in grace.

And giving those qualifications. That identified them as elders. That they would be trustworthy men. To whom the truth of scripture, the truth of the gospel. Can be entrusted. That they might teach others. In future generations. And so on. Reminding Timothy that since they're already in the last days. These perilous times that have come will continue to come.

Perilous means dangerous. And a dangerous times. Because they're full of dangerous men. They're not just do. The things that are listed here. In particularly versus two, three, four. They teach. A form of. Quote unquote, christian doctrine. That says that these things are okay. For christians, but you shouldn't expect a difference.

In christians. This is a continuation of what he has been saying in the end of chapter 2. And so it's not just that there is a moral problem. It's at the moral problem. Is actually defendant by incorrect theology. That's why we had and the last two weeks worth of portions the second half of chapter 2.

Uh, these instructions about how to Reason and help the people theologically from the bible. And when not to argue with someone who has just being argumentative, And so forth, but now We learned something about. The sort of theology that he's especially concerned with It's theology. That doesn't

recognize that Jesus is God.

It's that theology that doesn't recognize Jesus, as The redeemer. And especially, Not just Jesus as the redeemer from the guilt of sin. But Jesus is a redeemer from the dominion of sin. That Christians are those who have been united to Christ and not only forgiven, by being joined to Jesus, But they are those who are now able to and desire to live a holy life.

Whether being joined to Jesus, The list of different sorts of sinners and sins. In verses 2 through 4. I actually has a lot of overlap. With the list that is at the end of Roman's chapter 1. And yet, these are not people. Who don't use the name of God and don't use the name of Jesus.

Who commit? A, an idolatry that is obvious in the way they talk. About God. These are people who have what were inspired calls a form of godliness. They know or at least they say that Jesus is Lord. And they say, and That Jesus is powerful. And they seem to celebrate that power.

They even think. That they serve Jesus. And that they serve his cause and advances kingdom. How do we know this? Well, we know this, because The Lord Jesus himself in Matthew chapter 7 warns of the same people. He warns of false teachers. And he warns of their wolves and he warns against following them, And then he gives A warning about what the last day will be like for those who follow the false teachers.

He says, in that day, many will say to me, Lord Lord. In your name. Did we not in your name? Did we not in your name? Did we not? So, they know that salvation. Is in Jesus's name. They know that Jesus is Lord. And they think that they have done.

Many mighty works. And that they have. Cast out demons. They think that they have advanced the kingdom. But what Jesus says to them. Is depart from me. I never knew you. You workers of lawlessness. So they have a form of religion. But they're denying the power of it. The power to do what?

While the power. To recognize and And puts into that. And so, what Paul was saying is that The danger of the times. Of Jesus, having come is that now the name of Jesus is known. And now the kingdom of Jesus has come And yet, there are those who say Jesus is Lord But he's not.

Lord enough. To make a difference in how I live. And Jesus is King. But he's not King enough. To make a difference. And how I live. And the difference goes, especially to the heart. Notice that in this list. By comparison to the list and In Romans one, you have this.

Bookends of love. Lovers of themselves, lovers of money. At the beginning of the list, and at the end, Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. And so here is the great difference that the Lord Jesus makes as our Lord and King. Jesus makes, As arcade. He becomes Lord.

And King of our heart. We're no longer slaves to sin, it is not our master. We have a new master King Jesus. That does master of our heart. You teaches us what to love, you changes the motivations. From which we live. So that we love the Lord, our God With all our heart soul, mind and strength.

And being freed from selfishness. And being freed from pleasure seeking. And being freed from property, seeking We are enabled by love for God. First and foremost also then. To love our neighbor. Including our neighbor who is our parent? Did you notice Sophia? That one of the things that makes for dangerous times.

Are people who say that? It's okay for children. To disobey their parents. That you can even have children who belong to Jesus. But don't care to obey their parents. But if we love God, because Jesus is master of our hearts, Won't we love him? Who made me the child?

And made my parent the parent. And won't we want to obey? We won't be successful all the time. But as far as our identity goes, And these are the types of men. That he's described in here. Our identity will be over against our sin. Not joined to. Person. So we pray that the Lord would give us.

And so, we pray. That the Lord would give us ministers. Like Paul. And like Timothy. We teach the truth about Jesus. And that the Holy Spirit would make us to know the Lord Jesus by his word. So that we know that he knows us and how do we know that he knows us?

Because he doesn't work in us, that only he can do. You can tell. Those whom Jesus knows. With a difference. He has made in their hearts.

End in their lives. Let's pray.

Father, help us to recognize the danger in our own hearts. And the danger and the times. We pray that you would by your Spirit. Give us to be safe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Who do pray for your churches? The sorts of ministers that they need. To recognize the doctrine.

To teach it. To lead and disciple your That you would give such ministers to your churches. And you would make us such people. Who know Christ truly end. Do not merely use Christian language. And to give evidence of being known by him. Uh, in our hearts and in our lives.

Yes, some Christ's name.