

# The Household of the Living God

## Perseverance

### “The Current Tribulation”

2 Timothy 3:1-9

**I. The Word work of the last days (1-5)**

*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.*

Are you ready for the last days?

- Paul tells Timothy to persevere through the last days
- Paul refers to the last days in 1 Tim 4:1
- Paul says this time is coming and tells Timothy what to do (2 Tim 4:1-3)
- In Acts 2:17 Peter sites Joel and refers to the day of Pentecost as a sign that they were living in the last days.
- The author of Hebrews says that in the “former days” God spoke through the prophets, but in the “last days” He spoke to us by His incarnate Son (Heb 1:1-2)

18 unbiblical characteristics that mark the “people” of the last days:

The word of truth	Opposition to the word of truth
Mt 22:37 Love the Lord with all your heart	lovers of self (narcissist)
1 Tim 6:10 the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil	lovers of money
Lames 4:10 Humble yourself before the Lord	proud
Lk 1:51 The Lord will scatter the arrogant in the thoughts of their heart	arrogant
1 Cor 6:10 says the abuse will not inherit the kingdom of Heaven	abusive
Eph 6:1 Children must obey their parents	disobedient to their parents
1 Thess 5:18 it is Gods will for us to give thanks in all things	ungrateful
1 Pt 1:16 be holy for I am holy	unholy
Ps 51 the sacrifice unto the Lord is a contrite heart	heartless
Mt 5:24 reconcile with your brother then bring your gift to the alter	unappeasable
Eph 4:31 put away all slander	slandorous
Gal 5:23 The fruit of the Spirit includes self-control	without self-control
Mt 7:15 false teachers are like savage wolves	brutal
1 Cor 16:22 Love the Lord or be accursed	not loving good
Acts 7:52 to betray Jesus is treachery	treacherous
Pr 14:16 wisdom is cautious and not reckless	reckless
Phil 2:3 do nothing from selfish conceit	swollen with conceit
Eph 5:6 the wrath of God remains on the disobedient.	lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power

The bookends offer the context for this long list of rebellions. To love self and pleasures such as money rather than God is to become subject to all these vices.

The treachery of the people of the end times is summed up as *appearing godly, but denying IT’S power.*

As Paul is unfolding a context of the word (2:9; 19; 3:10-16), we can correctly understand that the power of godliness that is denies is the word of truth itself.

What will mark the people of the eschaton is their self-righteous independence from the word of God.

## II. The danger of the last days, similar to the former days (6-9)

*Avoid such people . . . <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.*

The people who are apart from and against the instruction of the word of truth are characterized as dangerous; *those who creep into households and capture weak women*

It seems to be a lack of spiritual maturity that causes Paul's disgust with those who have made themselves prey. They "have been burdened with sins, being led astray by various passions."

Paul follows with three descriptions of these "little women."

- 1) They have been burdened with sins.
- 2) As a result of their sins, the women were led by various passions.
- 3) They are always appearing to learn but never able to arrive at the real truth of the gospel.

They desire to learn, but not according to the normal prescription of 1 Tim 2:11. This is possibly due to unchecked "love of novelty."

*Always learning, but never able to arrive at the knowledge of the truth*

It is not that the women would not learn the truth, but that they could not learn the truth.

Sadly what they could not arrive at was the true gospel (see 2 Tim 2:25).

This situation of creepers trying to shroud the truth of God is not new to the last days.

*<sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.*

Paul compares the opponents (who were creeping into women's homes, v 6) with two Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses. See Exodus 7:11 (staff into a snake); 7:22 (water to blood); 8:7 (plague of frogs).

There are two points of comparison.

- Both groups opposed the true message
- Their failure was eventually evident (vs 9)

As long as there has been truth, there has been deception.

Do you know the truth today?

Do you see the prevalence of deception?

Do you notice that our exposure to deception is often more frequent than our exposure to the truth?

Are you concerned that your senses may also be dulled by frequent exposure to deception?

Conclusion:

Takeaway truth: \_\_\_\_\_

Christ Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

As a disciple of Christ, I should: \_\_\_\_\_