

Preaching and Practicing the Truth

Studies in 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, 1, 2 and 3 John

Godliness in Perilous Times

2 Timothy 3

Lesson 12

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

March 23, 2014

2 Timothy

- ▶ Paul's last words
 - Acts 20 – last words to the churches
 - 2 Timothy – last words to the Church
- ▶ Two fundamental principles (1:1)
 - The will of God
 - The promise of life in Christ Jesus

2 Timothy

- ▶ Two purposes (1:2-7)
 - The Gospel in Timothy
 - The Gospel through Timothy
- ▶ The charge to the minister (1:8-18)
 - Do not be ashamed
 - Retain the standard – the example
 - Guard the treasure – be faithful to the truth

2 Timothy

► Approved of God (2)

- Be strong in the grace in Christ Jesus (2:1-7)
 - Entrust to faithful men
 - Suffer hardship
 - Consider what I say – the truth of God’s revelation
- Remember Jesus Christ (2:8-13)
 - Risen from the dead
 - Heir of all things – Eternal King of God’s creation
 - Trustworthy statement – Gospel + faithfulness of Christ
- The minister’s method in the divided church (2:14-26)
 - Do not argue or fight
 - Accurately handle the Word of Truth
 - Flee evil and pursue righteousness
 - Deliver from captivity to the devil

#12 Godliness in Perilous Times

2 Timothy 3

- A form of godliness without the power (3:1-9)
- A perfect man, equipped for every good work (3:10-17)

In the last days (3:1)

► Former days:

- Deuteronomy 4:32 – days prior to the Law
- Ezekiel 38:16-17; Zech. 8:11; Mal. 3:4 – OT era is “former days”
- 1 Peter 3:5 – former times – holy women in the O.T. era

► Last days:

- Acts 2:17 – last days – Spirit poured out
- Heb 1:2 – God has spoken to us in His Son in these last days
- 1 John 2:18 – it is the last hour
- 1 Timothy 4:1 – “later times” – fall away (apostatize)
- 2 Peter 3:3 – mockers in the last days – following their own lusts
- Jude 18-25 – mockers following their own ungodly lusts

Between the Advents of Christ

- ▶ OT expectation of a Kingdom of Peace
 - Isaiah 65:25 – “no evil or harm” – 32:17 – peace
- ▶ Worsening apostasy (1 John 2:19)
- ▶ Perilous/difficult times (Greek “hard”)
- ▶ Emphasis on falling away and not persecution

Godliness: Form without Power (3:1-9)

- ▶ Love for self
- ▶ Love for money, pleasure
- ▶ No love for good or for God
- ▶ No ability to obey God or do good
- ▶ Form of godliness, but deny its power
- ▶ Avoid such men as these

Sinful men at work in the church

- ▶ Prey on the weak in the church
 - Enter households and captivate weak/gullible women
 - Weighed down by sins
 - Led by various impulses – not the Spirit
 - Always learning but never able to know the truth
- ▶ Oppose the truth
 - Jannes and Jambres – magicians who opposed Moses
 - Staffs into serpents (Ex 7:11)
 - Water into blood (Ex 7:22)
 - Frogs on the land (Ex 8:7)
 - Flies – not able to duplicate (Ex 8:18-19)
 - Boils – not able to escape (Ex 9:11)

Sinful men at work in the church

- ▶ Men of depraved minds (3:8)
- ▶ Avoid the shame of the Gospel – the cross
- ▶ Promote self love – emphasize temporal gain
- ▶ The devil captures in the church (cf. 2:26)

True Godliness with Power (3:10-17)

- ▶ You followed . . . (3:10)
- ▶ Christian fundamentals
 - My teaching – “faith handed down” (Jude 3)
 - My conduct – proof of knowledge of the truth
 - My purpose – Remember Jesus Christ in the Gospel

True Godliness with Power (3:10-17)

▶ The Christian Trilogy

- My faith – trust in God alone
- My patience – "long suffering" – hope
- My love – for God in Christ

True Godliness with Power (3:10-17)

▶ Christian discipline

- My Endurance – unconditional faith
- My Persecutions – proof of faith
- My Sufferings – share the life of Christ

True Godliness with Power (3:10-17)

▶ Christian certainties

- Persecution – in and out of the church
- Evil men and imposters – go from bad to worse
- The Lord rescued me from them all
- We walk by faith, not sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)

The Authority of Scripture (3:14-17)

- ▶ The Word – inspired by God – “God breathed”
 - Wisdom of God is foolishness to man (1 Cor 1:18)
 - Never enter the heart of man (1 Cor 2:9-10)
 - Wisdom of man is foolishness to God (1 Cor 1:19-20)

The Profit of Scripture (3:16-17)

- ▶ Perfect, equipped for every good work
 - Teaching – only source of truth about God
 - Reproof – conviction or rebuke or reprove
 - Correction – restoration to an upright state
 - Training in righteousness – training of a child (instruction and discipline)
- ▶ It is the power of God

Perilous Times

- ▶ Main danger is within the Church
- ▶ Response – zeal, not war
- ▶ Continue in the truths of Scripture
- ▶ God's infallible, inerrant, powerful Word