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
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