

Expect Troubles

2 Timothy 3:1-9, 10-13

3 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹ But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

The Cultural Context: "... understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty."

What did Paul want to make sure that Timothy understood?

A permanent characteristic of every era – since the ascension of Christ until His return – is the opposition of this world to what is true and good. We must _____ this and be _____ for it.

Another permanent characteristic is the presence of false teachers and false teachings. We must _____ and _____ both.

The common condition of "opposers of the truth": "Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth ..."

1) Their _____ are either a) tragically _____, or b) decent love is _____ altogether.

Where love for and honor of God is non-existent, any _____ is possible.

What's the role of the church when it comes to public morality?

2) Whatever _____ they expressed was _____. They had the _____ down but not the _____ power of the Holy Spirit that makes men new.

But you can only fake the new life for so long before certain _____ comes ...

Our right response to the fraudulent:

In a word – _____.

Why?

Why a warning specific to "weak women"?

When the truth is clearly _____, _____, and _____, the lies and the resulting ungodly living become _____ by contrast.

"You, however": Continue in Christ – no matter the cost!

Our steadfastness is the means through which God works --- perhaps even granting repentance to the rebellious, (2:25)

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.