

Edgemont Bible Church
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2 Timothy 3:1-9

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Intro: Something very important, but not practiced in many Churches today is the preaching of the whole counsel of God. To understand what God thinks and says about every topic covered in the Bible is of great importance. Each believer is to make decisions about what is the good acceptable and perfect will of God based on having been transformed in our thinking by the Word of God. Many in the Church, have taught a form of religion instead of Scripture. Some like the Pharisees moving the line so that people wouldn't cross the line, adding to the word of God. Others like the Laodiceans, thinking that they were fine with a casual recognition of God. Paul here lists five types of dangers that existed in his time that are even more of a problem today.

VII. Danger In The Church

A. Difficult Times - vs 1

1. But - indicates a change in direction
2. know this,
 - a. Present tense - carries the idea of constancy and continuity
 - b. Timothy was to realize this as long as he was alive
3. that in the last days perilous times will come
 - a. Last days can have several meanings
 - i. Daniel starts with Nebuchadnezzar until the end - 2:28-45
 - ii. Isaiah starts with time before Christ's second coming - Isa 2:2
 - iii. The writer of Hebrews includes the first coming of Christ - 1:1-2
 - iv. Peter quoting Joel 2:28 includes the coming of the Holy Spirit as a sign of the last days - Acts 2:16-17
 - v. In 1 John, he says it is the last hour - 2:18
 - v. It seems obvious that Paul is including the time since Christ's earthly ministry here
 - b. perilous
 - i. **chalepos** - difficult, dangerous, furious:--fierce, perilous.
 - ii. Translated violent in description of Gadarene demoniac - Mt 8:28
 - iii. Plutarch: describing an ugly, infected, and dangerous wound
 - c. times will come:
 - i. **Kairos** - an occasion, set or proper time:--opportunity, season, time, a while.
 - ii. Refers to a period of time
 - iii. Plural may refer to epochs of varying degrees of danger

B. Lovers of Self - vs 2-4

1. For men
 - a. one would expect this from unbelievers or people outside the Church
 - b. Probably referring to those inside the Church including leaders (Context)
2. First characteristic of these men - will be lovers of themselves,
 - a. **philautos** - fond of self, selfish:--lover of own self.
 - b. Phileo is not a wrong kind of love, it is used positively in NT
 - i. of the Father's love for believers and believer's love for Christ - Jo 16:27

- ii. Of Jesus' love for John - Jo 20:2
- iii. Of the Father's love for Christ - Jo 5:20
- c. it is wrong because of the object wrongly elevated - self - Mt 22:37-39
- d. the idea that you must love yourself before you can love others is the kind of heresy that Paul is talking about (low self esteem)
- 3. lovers of money
 - a. **philarguros** - fond of silver (money), avaricious:--covetous.
 - b. goes with loving self
 - c. not talking about earning for the cost of living concept
 - d. a sign of a false teacher - 1 Tim 6:5; Tit 1:11; 2 Pet 2:23
- 4. boasters - 1Ti 1:7
 - a. **alazon** - braggart:--boaster.
 - b. outward expression of self love -
- 5. proud
 - a. **huperephanos** - appearing above others, haughty:--proud
 - b. Lk 18:9-14 parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector
- 6. blasphemers - Mk 7:21-22
 - a. **blasphemos** - scurrilous, calumnious (against men), or impious (against God):--blasphemer(-mous), railing.
 - b. carries the idea of being abusive and slanderous
- 7. disobedient to parents - **apeithes** - unpersuadable, contumacious, disobedient.
- 8. unthankful - **acharistos** - thankless, ungrateful:--unthankful.
- 9. unholy
 - a. **anosios** - wicked:--unholy.
 - b. speaks of gross indecency - incest or not burying the dead
- 10. unloving
 - a. **astorgos** - hard-hearted towards kindred:--without natural affection.
 - b. neg form of storge which speaks of family, social, or patriotic love
- 11. unforgiving
 - a. **aspondos** - without libation (which usually accompanied a treaty), truceless:--implacable, truce-breaker.
 - b. determined to have their way
- 12. slanderers
 - a. **diabolos** - a traducer; Satan:--false accuser, devil, slanderer.
 - b. used 34 times in the NT of Satan
- 13. without self-control
 - a. **akrates** - powerless, without self-control: incontinent.
 - b. denotes moral and spiritual kind
 - c. refers to a person has jettisoned inhibitions and shame, doesn't care what people think
- 14. brutal
 - a. **anemeros** - savage:--fierce.
 - b. refers to attack and tearing apart enemies
- 15. despisers of good
 - a. **aphilagathos** - hostile to virtue, despiser of those that are good.
 - b. Is 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
- 16. traitors
 - a. **prodotes** - a surrender:--betrayed, traitor.
 - b. Mt 1:21-22 - brother will deliver up brother to death,
- 17. headstrong - **propetes** - falling forward, headlong:--heady, rash(-ly).

18. haughty

a. **tuphoo** - to envelop with smoke, to inflate with self-conceit:--high-minded, be lifted up with pride, be proud.

b. 1 Tim 3:6 elders cannot be new converts lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

19. lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

a. **philedonos** - fond of pleasure, voluptuous:--lover of pleasure.

b. **philos** (loving) and **hedone** (pleasure (hedonism))

c. the pleasure is not loved more than God, but "rather than"

d. cannot obey either of the two greatest commandments

C. Religious Fakes - vs 5

1. having a form of godliness

a. **morphosis** - formation, appearance (semblance or (concretely) formula):-form.

b. outward conformity - Mt 23:25

c. **eusebeia** - piety; specially, the gospel scheme:--godliness, holiness.

d. more dangerous b/c ignorant unbelievers or new believers will listen to them and their false teaching

2. but denying its power.

a. **dunamis**

b. denying

i. for salvation - that which gives life - the gospel - Ro 1:16

ii. For sanctification - that which enables to serve in a God pleasing way - Ro 8:11

3. And from such people turn away!

a. **apotrepo** - to deflect, avoid:--turn away.

b. 2Th 3:6; 1 Ti 6:5; avoid

c. guidelines for judging whether a teacher is worth listening to or not

i. Examine what he believes and promotes, does it align with all of Scripture

ii. Examine their personal character and its reflection in his lifestyle

iii. Examine his converts, what do they believe, how do they live

D. Captors of the Weak - vs 6-7

1. For of this sort are those who creep into households

a. explanation of the third identifying mark of false teachers

b. **enduno** - to sink, sneak:--creep;

i. carries the idea of stealth

ii. come in under false colors – **Jd 4**

2. Their target - and make captives of gullible women

a. **gunaikarion** - a little (foolish) woman:--silly woman.

b. loaded down with sins,

i. weighed down emotionally and spiritually

ii. they feel the weight and guilt of their sins

c. led away by various lusts,

i. weak in truth and weak in spirit

ii. especially vulnerable to being religiously seduced

d. always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- i. open to ideas reported as Christian
- ii. They are undiscerning and defenseless against unbiblical and ungodly precepts
- iii. **Epignosis** - recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement: not merely knowing facts

E. Opposers of Truth - vs 8-9

1. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses,
 - a. thought to be magicians of Egypt
 - b. names mean or could be symbolic given at a later time
 - i. Jannes – possibly he who seduces
 - ii. Jambres – he who makes rebellion
 - c. some think they left with Israel and instigated the worship of the golden calf and later killed by the Levites (Ex 32)
2. so do these also resist the truth:
 - a. men of corrupt minds,
 - i. **katphtheiro** - to spoil entirely, to destroy; to deprave; --corrupt, utterly perish.
 - ii. Perfect passive participle – indicating an established, continuous, and unalterable condition
 - b. disapproved concerning the faith;
 - i. **adokimos** - unapproved, rejected; worthless:--castaway, rejected, reprobate.
 - ii. used for metals that did not pass the test of purity
 - iii. Used in 1 Co 9:27 in another sense “when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
 - not disqualified for salvation
 - disqualified as a usable instrument
 - iv. unlike Paul in 1 Co, these men were disqualified “concerning the faith” - for salvation
3. but they will progress no further,
 - a. even though they will do much damage to the Church by preventing some from coming to Christ
 - b. they will not rob God's redeemed people from Him
4. for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.
 - a. sooner or later the truth is made manifest
 - b. just like Jannes and Jambres

Application: First, we must recognize that the church, we are involved in Spiritual Warfare and it will intensify until Christ's return. Second, we must be doctrinally discerning, testing every message that claims to be Christian against God's word – Acts 17:11. Third, we need to get serious about cleaning up our lives by the power of the Spirit – Ro 8:13. Fourth, since God is trying to teach us patience, we must learn patience, looking to the victory that comes when Christ returns – 1 Co 4:2.

Define Old Time Religion