

2 Timothy 3 – Oct. 19, 2022 – Part 3

● Paul writes Timothy so he will carry on the mission. More need Jesus.

2 Timothy 3: 1-7 NIV – *“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

Last Days – end of age? Or **last days** of the Church? Gallup poll.

In **1950** – **76%** belonged to church. In **1999** – **70%**. 6 decades steady.

In **2018** – **50%**. **First time ever**, we’re below 50%. In **2020** – **47%**

2000 – **avg** attendance was **137** in church. 2020 – avg. attend – **65**.

Generational differences – Born before 1946 – 66% belong/church

“baby boomers” (1946-64) – 58%. “Generation x” (1965-80) – 50%

“millennials” (born after 1981)– 36%

7/10 say have religious affiliation, but less than ½ are members.

2019 - 4,500 Protestant churches closed, 3,000 new churches started.

Since Covid – attendance down 1/3. **The Church is losing ground.**

Hearts today are about self-interest, self-protection, self-help.

But we can’t fix ourselves. We need Jesus. Need real Love.

- *People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, w/o love, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*
- *What destroys relationships: boastful, proud, abusive, ungrateful, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, rash, conceited.*
 - Relationship don’t survive b/c we don’t know how to love.
 - School shootings: gun problem, mental health? **Heart prob.**

Paul describes types of people with heart prob:

People “**always learning**” but never knowing truth.

Study religion, but never accept Jesus. **Want salvation, but want control.**

It’s a **heart problem**. Heart is resistant to **Savior and Lord**.

Heart can’t surrender life. Not understood this truth:

“Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” – **Matt. 10:39**

2 Tim. 2:25 – “Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s **hearts**, and they will learn the truth.”

We’ve got a mission. People need heart transplants.

Deal with people gently. “A bruised reed He will not break”

Another type of person described - *the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,*

Paul prophesies about **Cat-Fishing**. Led by evil desire. **Need heart fix.**

Deut.30:6 – “The LORD your God will also **cleans**e your heart and the hearts of your descendants so that you may love him with all your mind and being and so that you may live.”

Victims have this in common – desire to matter, be loved.

They need to know how much they matter to Jesus. We – tell!

Notice another person described in the last days – **vs. 5** *having a form of godliness but denying its power.*

People **act religious**, but reject the power that could make them Godly

These are Christians, baptized believers, but experience no change.

Paul is opposite of the people described. He is different. We should too.

2 Timothy 3: 10-13 NLT - “*10 But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my **purpose** in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. 11 You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it. 12 Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.*

3 truths. 1- Living for Jesus isn’t easy. Bad things happen to good people.

2 - There will also be “**evil people**” – they will continue to exist. Flourish.

3 – Deceived. How we live matters. Consequences. Judgment.

Need for us to live lives of **faith, patience, love, & endurance** has **never been greater.**

We were created for this purpose. To live diff; shine a light.

Hate/Love. Hurt/Good. Mean/Kind. Ignore/Matter.

To live like that, we need - taught. Where Bible study & worship comes in.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 NLT – *“But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. 15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

Knowing Scripture has 3 purposes:

1 – it saves us,

2 – It teaches us what’s wrong in our lives

“All Scripture” is inspired by God... divinely inspired, written human hands.
It’s useful to us to grow, mature. Vs. 16

3 - it prepares & equips us to do good work.

Much work is needed. **We all have a mission.**

We need to gently, lovingly share Jesus’ love.

2 Tim. 1:24-25 NLT - 24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. 25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth...”

More than ever, we have a purpose – sharing the Love of Jesus.

The church’s survival depends on us.

Stay positive. Test negative. **“Jesus’ Fault” - Zach Williams, Walker Hayes**
“Love One Another” – Newsboys

Upcoming – Time Change in 2+ weeks (17 days).

Thanksgiving in 35 days.

Christmas in 66 days