

Eschatology
“The Apostate Church”
II Timothy 3:1-9

Background Scripture: *“And I say unto thee, That thou are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* [Matthew 16:18].

“And Simon Peter answered and said unto Him, Thou are The Christ, The Son of The Living God” [Matthew 16:16].

The Church lives on: The “gates of hell” represents all the demons and evil strategy that satan can marshal in an attempt to destroy the church or to withstand its mission in the world. **(1)** This passage does not mean that any particular believer, local church, fellowship of churches, or denomination will be immune to doctrinal error or otherwise be overcome by sin or satan’s snares. Jesus warned believers and churches of possible spiritual deception and failure (**Matthew 24:1-10; Revelation 2:5, 12-29; 3:1-6, 14-16; I Timothy 4:1**).

(2) What this passage does mean is that in spite of satan doing his worst, the church that Jesus Christ is building cannot, in the end, be overcome by satan. God’s true church will rise up in faith, authority and the power of the Holy Spirit to righteously assault satan’s kingdom and domain of darkness by delivering people from sin, disease, bondage, and oppression. The church that Jesus is building can never be destroyed nor by satan (**vs.19**).

[3:1-9 AMP]

But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great distress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by and inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profaned.

[They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

[They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.

For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of the profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].

For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate silly and weak-natured and spiritually dwarfed women, loaded down with [the burden of their] sins [and easily] swayed and led away by various evil desires and seductive impulses.

[These weak women will listen to anybody who will teach them]; they are forever inquiring and getting information, but never able to arrive at a recognition and knowledge of the truth.

Now Just as Jannes and Jambres were hostile to and resisted Moses, so these men also are hostile to and oppose the Truth. They have depraved and distorted minds and are reprobates and counterfeit and to be rejected as far as the faith is concerned.

But they will not get very far, for their rash folly will become obvious to everybody, as was of those [magicians mentioned].

**The Remedy
(Matthew 22:34-40)
The Great Commandment**

Final Thought: *And every man that hath this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure [1 John 3:3].*