

INTRO: This chapter/text is part of a letter by the Apostle Paul to his Younger pastor friend Timothy, probably from prison in Rome shortly before Paul's martyrdom. In preparing this sermon, I was fascinated by many of the many words which Paul used to describe what he anticipates as 'perilous times' (v.17) which were to come.

## I. SO, WHAT ARE THESE PAULINE PERILOUS TIMES?

A. Look for people exhibiting these characteristics (TV, web, friends)

1. v.2 – lovers of themselves; **phil-autoi**, not **phil-adelpia**
2. lovers of money – literally, silver
3. boasters = braggards
4. proud = looking down on others from above (**hyper** – **phanos**/shine)
5. blasphemers (transliterated!) mocking God
6. disobedient to parents (and laws; e.g. flashmobs, arsonists)
7. unthankful = ungrateful (Rodger Lowe: we don't hear much thanks)
8. unholy = ungodly
9. v.3 - unloving = uncivil; unkind (neither **agapay** nor **phileoh**) rude
10. unforgiving = "I'll **not** drink to that"
11. slanderers = literally: diabolical, of the devil
12. without self-control 'powerless to control self
13. brutal = savage; hit ladies from behind; push off subway platform
14. despisers of good = not loving (**phileo**) good
15. v.4 – traitors = 'handing over'; re: Judas Luke 6:16
16. headstrong 'falling forward'; leap before you look; rash
17. haughty = full of smoke; hot air; inflated with self-conceit
18. lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

B. Look, also, for some specific behaviors

1. v.5 having the form of godliness but denying its power
2. **any** religion w/o Christ's atonement, Christian or un-Christian
3. v.6 – false religionists who prey on the vulnerable
4. v.8 denying what is before their eyes (heavens declare; DNA; ultrasound)
5. Pharaoh's sorcerers Jannes/Jambres; defied Triune God
6. progress no further = couldn't do all plagues; they'll get nowhere

(continued)

## II. HOW ARE GOD'S PEOPLE TO BE EQUIPPED?

### A. Prepare to suffer persecutions (vv.10-12)

1. advice from the man 'on death row' to a younger pastor
2. v.13 evil will grow worse; from then to now...
3. most Christian nations devolve to secular states (Italy, France, Britain, Germany, Sweden)
4. be it 'established' religions or our 'free exercise thereof'
5. Lois Lerner's IRS vs. Tea Partiers, clinging to guns and Bibles
6. Merrick Garland's DOJ vs. pro-lifers praying before abortion clinics

### B. Continue in the things you have learned (v.14)

- 1...from whom? Lois/Eunice, grandmother/mother (1:5)
2. and also from Paul himself (1:13)
3. v.15 holy Scriptures make you wise for salvation
4. condemnation for any one of the above listed sins
5. salvation through faith in Christ Jesus = our sole confidence
6. whose Nativity, Incarnation we anticipate again
7. who also was imprisoned, crucified under Roman Pontius Pilate
8. His resurrection victory is ours through faith, as we trust
- 9 God's inspired Word is our equipment
  - a. doctrine, re: God's gracious acts
  - b. reproof, to show our sins and our need for Jesus
  - c. instruction in righteous living

CONCLUSION: So there you have the complete package: warning and description of the perilous times we face, and the Scripture message of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus, which equips us people of God. Amen.