

From Forgiven to Faithfulness (2 Timothy)

Lesson 11: Faithfulness and Apostasy

Date: February 26, 2023

INTRODUCTION: Overview of the Lesson

1. Scripture Focus: 2 Timothy 3:1-17
2. Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:14
"But as for you (*su de*), continue in what you have learned & have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it."
3. Overview:
Paul warned that *reprobates* would create difficulties for believers, opposing truth and leading people astray. However, the servant of God is to *follow* the faithful example of Paul and *remain true to* the inspired Scripture.
4. Topic: Faithfulness to _____.
Today's lesson is about the powerful, transforming nature of God's Word.
5. Theme:
We deal with opposition and false teaching by faithfully continuing in the inspired Scripture, which provides the mind of God for every area of life.
6. Desired Learner Response:
The learner will appreciate that God breathed the very words of Scripture and remain faithful to the Scriptures.

INTRODUCTION: "But mark (understand) this: There will be "terrible times" in the last days" (3:1).

1. When are the "last days"?
Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:18-20; 1 Jn. 2:18-19. These passages indicate that the last days began with the first coming of Christ. We live in the "last days"!
2. In the "last days" there will be *seasons* that are perilous/terrible. See Matt. 8:28. The word "times" (*καιροι*) could be trans. "seasons, eras, epochs". Such savage, dangerous eras or epochs will increase in frequency and severity as the return of Christ approaches (vs. 13).

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 3 - Warren Wiersbe, Bible Ex. Commentary

TURN AWAY FROM THE FALSE (3:2-9)

Paul's counsel: "Have nothing to do with them" (5b). A faithful believer must turn away from the people Paul described in this section. It is important to note that

these people operate *under the guise of religion*: "having a form of godliness but deny its power" (5a). They're "religious" but _____!

1. Their _____ (3:2-5)

Paul gives nineteen character qualities of these reprobates/apostates in verses 2-5 so that Christians might be able to identify such people. Give special attention to characteristic #19 in verse 5.

2. Their _____ (3:6-9)

A. They "_____ their way" into homes and gain control.

B. They _____ the truth (8, 9).

Two add't. character qualities of these apostates are given in vs. 8.

- They're people with _____ minds.
- As far as "the faith" is concerned, they're _____.

FOLLOW THOSE WHO ARE TRUE (3:10-12)

Paul turned from the reprobates to remind Timothy that he (Paul) had been a faithful servant of God. It's important in these difficult days that we follow the right spiritual leaders. What are their characteristics?

1. Their lives are _____ for all to see (10a).

2. They teach _____ doctrine (10a).

3. They _____ what they _____ (10c).

4. Their purpose is to _____ God (10d).

5. They are willing to _____ (11-12).

CONTINUE IN _____ (3:13-17)

1. They are the _____ Scriptures (15a).

2. They Scriptures _____ to salvation (15b).

3. The Scriptures are _____ & _____ (16a).

4. The Scriptures are _____ / _____ (16b).

5. The Scriptures _____ us for _____ (17).