

“Perilous Times” – O. Monroe

Covenant Blessing Fellowship 7/12/2015

INTRODUCTION - A Little Boy Lost

MAIN SCRIPTURE: *2 Timothy 3 New King James Version (NKJV)*

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres¹ resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch², at Iconium³, at Lystra⁴—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

EXAMINATION OF THE TEXT

Verse 1-5: A list and a warning

Verses 6-7: The susceptibility of the weak

Verses 8-9: Precedent for revealed failure by those who fight truth

Verses 10-12: Persecution of the righteous

Verse 13 – The Growth of Deception

¹ Egyptian magicians named extra-biblically as the ones who opposed Moses as he attempted to led God’s people from Egypt (see <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/2-timothy/3.html>)

² Reference to a conflict with Cephas (who may or may not have been the Apostle Peter) relating to the treatment of gentiles. Previously Cephas would eat with gentiles, but upon the arrival of Jewish men sent by James the lesser had rejected the gentiles out of fear sparked by their arrival. Paul called Cephas out on his hypocrisy and a conflict arose which lasted for years and resulted in Paul leaving and never returning to Antioch (see Galatians 2:11-14) – more detail at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incident_at_Antioch

³ Paul and Barabbas nearly stoned by a group of Jews and stirred up Gentiles after preaching the Gospel [see Acts 14:1-5]

⁴ Paul stoned, and left for dead, in Lystra after being overtaken by the same mob that chased him from Antioch. Prior to the stoning he had been mistaken for Hermes when he healed a crippled man [see Acts 14:8-20]

How does the deception grow?

1. Choosing the wisdom of man vs. the Wisdom from God

- Wisdom is **not** recall of a wide array of knowledge – having isn't the same as using
- Wisdom is **not** your skill at getting people to agree or follow you - everyone with a book, mega-church, or large number of friends/followers isn't a good source from which to model or take advice)
- Wisdom **IS** proper application of whatever knowledge you have (Some of us who know a lot of information are very unwise, yet others are "simple" but VERY full of Godly wisdom)
- Questions to Consider

| Man's Logic | Godly Wisdom |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is wrong with it?• How does it make me (or others) feel?• Do you/I understand it?• Why would God.....? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is God my Lord, Master, King (am I his slave)?• What does God say?• Is this sin?• Does this (dis)please God? |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who is the authority (what is their basis of credibility)?• What worldview does this support? | |

Ultimately we are all seeking to Fill the gap" by our own terms, not God's (EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES – Judges 17:6 & 21:25 <- **there was no respected, recognized authority outside the randomness of each person's whims**)

2. Self-perpetuating Evil

a. External Pressure: The Culture of Victimhood

i. The birth of victim culture: GENESIS 3:11-13

11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- Adam - You gave me someone faulty to work with (no love/covering for those in your care)
- Eve – The snake tricked me

ii. The fruit of the victim culture and the poison therein

- Entitlement (the sense of "you owe me, it's my turn now")

Demand for "justice" - how can justice exist when everyone is a victim?

If you FORCE someone to love you...it won't be good enough....you still won't BE loved and you know it

For some of us – those who demand justice - we are SO thirsty; that this false-love is enough. We will drink from a well we know is poisoned (see addictions: resulting from substitution of truth for a lie and the concept of diminishing returns).

To make it (drinking the poison) OK, we will reduce (or redefine) the original thinga "partner" is not a spouse, prostitution/ hooking-up /late-night-creeping is not a date, a binge gives a temporary high, but the high never lasts)

- Resentment ("THEY are getting over while we suffer" or "how long must I pay)

Love given by force isn't love and will soon turn to resentment. See "liberal guilt" and its subsequent backlash (stop making me pay for old sins that weren't even mine)

(Growth of Deception – Self-Perpetuating Evil CONTINUED)

b. **Internal Pressure:** Fighting our enemies battles – against ourselves (list: 10)

1. Faulty logic and uncritical thought

- Bad analysis and poorly drawn conclusions –
Example: “All sin is sin”...since we are all sinners we cannot argue against ANY sin
 - All sins are equal in the sense that they cause separation from God
 - The **CONSEQUENCE** (and impact) of sin differs
- The straw-man (arguing against something imaginary): since you don’t deal with X you cannot talk about Y

2. Justification by Excuse (not by faith)

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we^a have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“I wasn’t raised in church.” “ I had a rough childhood” “I would do better if I had..”

Ask yourself: But where are you now? Are you recognizing and addressing the lack of background/resources/knowledge or is that the convenient excuse that allows you to stay ignorant and keep sinning....because you are a victim of your someone else’s failings

3. The romance of being a martyr (I have to overcome with no help) or a lone wolf (look at what I accomplished with no support)

Results

- Isolation...
- Shame....
- Not accepting consequences of your actions/choices OR Leads to vulnerability to attack (no protection)

4. Passive compliance

- None of my business
- You stay over there, I will stay over here

5. Negotiated compliance - As a persecuted person you know firsthand what it’s like therefore you should defend me as a victim

6. Imbalanced diet of Godliness and worldliness: (Sewing tares within your own wheat) – TV, Music, Book, Internet (sites, anti-social media)

7. Apathy

- I don’t care about what someone else does with their life/in their homes
- I’ve got my own issues to deal with

8. Corrupted Narratives – Revisiting the Stories We Tell

- Parables (Does the story share a Godly principle, or earthly lie)
- Epistles (written communication of what?)
- Oral Traditions (does it redeem or empower toward God?) note: even “Christian-ese”

9. “The Lampshades of Shame” and “Too cool” – worrying about what others think/say/do....but at what cost?

10. Unfounded Pride – Belief your accomplishments will protect you, are worth sharing, or yours

Verses 14-17 – HOW TO HANDLE THESE TIMES.....

GOD SHOWS US HOW TO DEAL WITH THESE PERILOUS TIMES

(v14) But you must...

1continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of,....

- Not just recalling the information but the certainty you have because you learned

2...knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

- Check the source – what /whose model will you follow?
- Remember you were created for a reason - you are part of something: - God's "Rescue Plan"
- You are wonderfully and fearfully made from the womb in the likeness and image of the ONE TRUE LIVING GOD – Gen 1:27; job 3:10, job 31:15, Jer 20:17, palms 22:10, psalm 139:13
- God has given you resources and has covered you. You are not alone. Stop the "I never had a" (father, teacher) narrative. No one is alone. God has ALWAYS looked out for you

(V15) and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- Do you know WHAT it says? If not, you're in trouble. If you do, that's not enough: Do you know WHY it says that? Have you considered it or asked? Why would God say or do that? What is the consequence of NOT doing it God's way?
- Does Gods Word sit equal to any other philosophy, "-ism", "-centricity" we hold? If so, do we recognize this about ourselves?
- Consider about Ask yourself – what am I diligent about? What gets my time? What has my passion?

Your kids? Your marriage? Fitness and health? Your financial health? Your career? Academic accomplishment and collection of degrees? Facebook Status?

Where is God on the list – where is His Holy Word? How can you prove it?

Story – Asked parents (multiple times) and others to write down what they do to SEE how busy they actually are and where their time is going. NONE did it. Ever. They were too busy.

(V16-17) ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Consider: Why is this here? Look at the context. (we talking about: perilous times)
- This section serves as a reminder, admonishment, and re-centering point. Without THE WORD (what GOD said) you are incomplete and ill-equipped the perilous times and the evil and fake that you are in and those that will come
- See it, know it, and use it as:
 - a **beacon** to brighten the darkness
 - a **indicator** highlight error
 - a **balm** to soothe hurt and pain
 - an **assurance** against fear
 - a **revelation** to clarify the unknown
 - the **tried and true** at a time when everything is cheap and disposable
 - the **sound** in the cacophony of random, faddish noise

What else does the word say about itself

- Psalm 119:11 ESV - I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
- Isaiah 40:8 ESV - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.
- Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV - “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
- John 17:17 ESV - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- Matthew 22:29 ESV - But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.
- Romans 15:4 ESV - For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- Hebrews 4:12 ESV - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- James 1:21 ESV - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.