

**Text:** 2 Timothy 3:1-17

**Title:** Reviewing 2 Timothy 3

**Truth:** The Bible is *the* tool to navigate through dangerous times.

**Date/Location:** Sunday September 18, 2016 at FBC

## Introduction

We have studied the entire third chapter in two sections, but there is more to be said. Remember the basic outline of the passage. Verses 1-9 deal with the dangerous times that will exist in increasing measure at the end of the age. The character and conduct of the people who are at the center of these dangerous times is detailed.

In verses 10-17, Paul instructs Timothy as to how he can successfully navigate the evil days in which he lives. The basic tool in his toolbox is the Bible. The Word of God will outfit him for everything that he needs. We can be ready by taking heed to the same message.

## I. Evil Men

- A. Jannes and Jambres in verse 8 are a prime example of the kind of people who will be devastatingly active during the last days. These men are not known to us by name other than through Paul here. Tradition has it that these men were the magicians in Egypt who used their arts to try to match the miracles of Moses and Aaron (for instance, in Exodus 7:11-12, 22; 8:7, 18-19; 9:11).
1. They will resist the truth, like in Romans 1. They will suppress it.
  2. They have corrupt minds. How can they have a working mind if they support abortion and homosexuality?
  3. They are disapproved concerning the faith. Modern example: 70 to 80% of Americans say that they are "Christian." But a high percentage of them are not true Christians, that is, disciples of Christ (followers of Jesus or born again are other ways to say the same thing). Many resist the truth and have corrupt minds.
  4. At the end, neither the false believer nor any of these evil men will get a favorable nod from God. Their foolishness will be made clear to everyone.
  5. Let us remind ourselves that bad men will be the cause of the evil times. It is not that the times are evil in some abstract way apart from the people who live in them. It is the people that have an effect on

the world in which they live. These men have a bad effect on the world.

**Application:** Let us resolve that we will have a good effect and leave the world in better shape than when we found it.

B. In verses 2-5, 18 sinful characteristics are listed of these evil people. Some men will be characterized by some of these things; others by others.

1. Few if any people could exhibit all of these things simultaneously. Not all people are as evil as they can be, but some are close.
2. There is no discernable ordering or priority in the list; it is just a grab bag of words that describe the overall condition of humanity. It is present now but growing more.
3. You can probably go back through the news headlines of this week and find a few stories that demonstrate one or more of these characteristics.

C. The false religion of evil men

1. The Bible says in 3:5 that these people have a form of godliness but deny the power of it. I take this to mean that they have a false religion, a mere outward form, but that this religion was powerless. They likely do not offer a verbal denial of the entire body of Christianity, but their actions comprise a true denial. What they **do** tells everything about what they really believe. They oppose the truth (v. 8) and have corrupted minds.
2. Today we have those who not only do evil, and applaud those who do so, but they claim the moral high ground, saying that they understand true love and righteousness, while Christians are hate-filled sinners for their "intolerance" toward what they believe to be deviant behaviors. And those behaviors do deviate—from the Word of God.

D. The response required is found in v. 5. The only safe thing to do is to turn away from these folks. Initially you may try to instruct individuals that you encounter who are in this camp, but their rejection of truth will quickly become evident and then you must keep away from them.

## II. Women Victims (or Voluntary Partners?)

A. The main offenders in the prior verses are not necessarily males. They can include corrupt women as well, all of whom, among other activities, try to allure the women of verse 6-7 to their ungodly philosophies and activities.

- B. Verse 6 is not a very flattering verse for the women. These particular women are gullible and loaded down with sins. These women are foolish, weak, and piled high with sins. Under the influence of the apostate idolaters described earlier, they are led astray by various lusts. These lusts are not just sexual in nature, but such things as appeal to the self-centered nature of the women that is just like that nature which men have. It may be characteristically displayed in some different ways, but it is there nonetheless. They want good feelings and knowledge and experiences, and these evil people seem to be one easy way to get that.
- C. These people are led away from the truth, not toward it. They could be led toward the truth if they believed the gospel, but they cannot be led toward the truth by the "creeps" that try to get them.
- D. If these people can get the woman in a household under the sway of their evil system, then they also influence the children, and likely even also the husband.

**Application:** The television and Internet are ways that such "creeps" enter the home today. Guard it closely. Most of the time, have it off.

**Application:** Do not be depressed about the evil state of affairs. Do not be happy at the demise of the wicked. Instead, be concerned for their souls, and the souls of their victims. Do what you can to live righteously and combat this sinful influence on society. Be a light in a dark world. Be salt in a rotting system. Be a force for good in the midst of evil.

### III. Reminders from 3:10-17

- A. The value of a godly example, v. 10-11
- B. The inevitability of suffering, v. 12
- C. The growing evil of the age, v. 13
- D. The need to continue in what we have learned and grown assured of from the Bible through godly people.
- E. The Bible outfits you to not only **survive** evil times, but **successfully** live through them. How can it do that?
  - 1. Divine origin. It is God-breathed, meaning that God essentially spoke and the words were recorded. The means by which this happened is more sophisticated than mere dictation, at least most of the time, and included the superintending work of the Holy Spirit on the holy men of God who wrote God's words. This superintendence insured that what they wrote was precisely what God desired them to write.

2. Because of the divine origin, the Bible has divine trustworthiness. It is worthy of your complete trust. It had in its original manuscripts zero errors. It cannot fail, and it completely tells the truth.
3. Divine profit. It is useful for teaching, telling someone they are wrong, telling someone how to get right, and instructing in how to stay right. This is most helpful when you read it yourself and apply it to yourself.
4. Divine equipping. God's intended result from Scripture is that the man of God be able to meet all the demands placed upon him. With the Bible as the solid foundation, the Christian is ready to do every good work.

## Conclusion

The Bible alone is the Word of God. There is no other book in the world that partakes of the qualities listed above. This book of 66-smaller-books is the only information in the possession of humanity that has come from heaven. There is no other, and we will not dig up another one either, because this book is sufficient for all of life and godliness.

**Application:** So what are you going to do about it? If this book is what it says it is, and if this book can protect you from the evil days that are growing worse and worse, and if this book is without error and can thoroughly equip you for every good work, then what are you going to do about it?

I urge you to **read** it daily, or multiple times a day; **think** on it throughout the day and how it applies to your life today; **memorize** portions of it; sit down with pencil and paper and **copy** it or **outline** it; **write** an email to someone telling them three things you learned from it today; **carry** a copy with you; **get to church** as much as you can to hear people who have studied it more than you; **give copies** to everyone you can; and **teach** it to others (by which means you will learn it better yourself).

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