

2 Timothy 3:1-9

3 Approaches To Culture's Moral Decline



Background/Context

Author: Apostle Paul (Paul is in prison in Rome)

Audience: Letter written to Timothy (pastor of church in Ephesus)

Approx. 68 AD

Setting: This letter written to encourage Timothy and believers during an intense time or persecution by Roman Government

Paul wanted believers to be aware of the culture around them as time drew near the return of Jesus

Being Actively Alert To Culture's Condition

(vv. 1-4) Paul wrote to get believers' attention and awareness

Word, "know" – "to know by inspection and experience"

Believers are to be in the world but not like the world

"last days" – "period of time before Jesus returns to earth"

"perilous times" – "dangerous, difficult, (used to describe wild animals and infected wounds)"

I Tim. 4:1-2, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron,...”



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Being Committed To Biblical Holiness

(vv. 5-7) Paul recorded not everyone who looks godly, is godly

There many who talk the talk, but on inside are far from Him

“Holiness” – “to be set apart, consistently cleansed from sin”

As time advances, more people (and false teachers) will have religious knowledge, but never apply it personally

Believers are to be discerning (Matt. 7:1-5, 15-20)

Leviticus 20:26, “And you should be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.”

Eph. 1:4, “...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,...



Being Confident God Is In Control

(vv. 8-9) Paul uses illustration from Israel's history to show God is in control of all things

Exodus 7, Pharoah's sorcerers resisted Moses and Aaron, but Aaron's staff/snake ate the snakes conjured by the magicians (Jannes, Jambres) They were exposed and defeated

God will one day expose all evil and evildoers; He will execute His perfect judgment on all those who reject Him and His way

John 3:19, “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil.”

Gal. 6:7, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he shall reap.”

