

## **“TROUBLED TIMES AHEAD”**

### **II Timothy 3:1-9**

In the opening verses of this chapter, the apostle warns Timothy “that in the last days difficult times will come.” KJV calls them “perilous times.” NIV says “terrible times.” The “last days” are the days in which we live between the writing of the N.T. and the Lord’s return. Paul makes clear the EVIDENCES OF TROUBLED TIMES. Notice what he says:

- I. We are in trouble WHEN WE LOVE THE WRONG THINGS.
  - A. When we become LOVERS OF SELF, we are in trouble (v. 2a “Men will be lovers of self...”)  
-SELF MORE THAN OTHERS
  - B. When we become LOVERS OF MONEY, we are in trouble (v. 2b “...lovers of money...”)  
-MONETARY GAIN MORE THAN SPIRITUAL MATURITY.
  - C. When we become LOVERS OF PLEASURE, we are in trouble (v.4d “...lovers of pleasure...”)  
-PLEASURE MORE THAN ACCOMPLISHMENT.
  - D. When we become LOVERS OF ANYTHING MORE THAN GOD, we are in trouble  
(v. 4e “...rather than lovers of God.”) -ANYTHING MORE THAN GOD.
- II. We are in trouble when we LEAVE THE WRONG THINGS.
  - A. When we leave GRATEFULNESS, we are in trouble (v. 2g “...ungrateful...”)-presumptuous,  
thankless, taking things/other for granted.
  - B. When we leave HOLINESS, we are in trouble (v. 2h “...unholy...”)
  - C. When we leave LOVE, we are in trouble (v. 3a “...unloving...”)
- III. We are in trouble when we LEARN THE WRONG THINGS.  
(v. 7 “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”)
  - A. If we learn the LAWS OF MEN and fail to learn the laws of God, we are in trouble.
  - B. If we learn the WAYS OF THE WORLD and fail to learn the ways of God, we are in trouble.
- IV. We are in trouble WHEN WE LIVE THE WRONG WAY.
  - A. When we live in DISRESPECT OF OTHER PEOPLE, we are living the wrong way.  
(v. 2e “...revilers...” v. 3 “...brutal...” v. 4 “treacherous...”)
  - B. When we live in DISOBEDIENCE TOWARD OUR PARENTS, we are living the wrong way.  
(v. 2f “disobedient to parents...”)
  - C. When we live in DISREGARD OF WHAT’S PRECIOUS, we are living the wrong way. (v. 3  
“haters of good...” v.4 “reckless...”)

We certainly live in “TROUBLE TIMES,” we know we are in trouble when...

- I. We LOVE the wrong things (self, money, pleasure)
- II. We LEAVE the wrong things (gratefulness, holiness, love)
- III. We LEARN the wrong things (laws of men OVER laws of God)
- IV. We LIVE the wrong way (“holding to a form of godliness, but denying its power”)