

Worse And Worse

2 Timothy 3

Perilous, 2 Tim.3:1

- Troublesome, hard, difficult.
- Mt.8:28
 1. We face dangers
 2. We face apostasies

Paul prepares Timothy
for hard times ahead

I. The Problem, 1-5

Last days

- Historians lament U.S. decline
- Time Magazine: *Narcissism* – The Me Me Me Generation
- $N = S / h$

2 Tim.3:1-4, sins

Emphasis on 'lost' loves

2: **lovers of themselves:** selfish; self-centered love.

- Root of other vices

“But Mt.22:39 commends self-love.”

- True love, not selfishness
- Self-denial, not indulgence, Mt.16

2 Tim.3:1-4, sins

Emphasis on 'lost' loves

2: **lovers of money:** avaricious

- Lk.16:14
- Prosperity is more dangerous than poverty

2 Tim.3:1-4, sins

Emphasis on 'lost' loves

3: **unloving**: hard-hearted, unfeeling, without regard for others

- Abortions
- Child abuse, neglect
- Euthanasia

2 Tim.3:1-4, sins

Emphasis on 'lost' loves

4: **lovers of pleasure:** crowds out love for God. Hb.11:25

5: **form of godliness**

1. Professed Christians
2. Greatest enemy: not atheists, but hypocrites – religious rebels

I. The Problem, 1-5

II. The Proposal

(What should we do in such times?)

1. "We need miracles"

Lk.4:14-15, emphasis on teaching

- 19-22, scroll = read, applied
- 31-32, Capernaum: taught . . .
- 33-37, synagogue miracle
- 38-39, healed
- 40-41, miracles
 - 42, 'it's good to pray, but...'
 - 43, must preach kingdom; (44)

1. "We need miracles"

2. "We need to change the church; modernize it"

- "If church doesn't change, my children won't stay in it"
- Jn.6:...26

**Jesus refused to
budge from His course (6:63)**

1. "We need miracles"
2. "We need to change the church; modernize it"
3. "We need lobby groups;
elect Christians to office"

- John Calvin's Geneva – theocracy
- Jn.19:38-41

I. The Problem, 1-5

II. The Proposal

III. The Prescription, 1-17
(What does Paul do?)

1. Counterfeit warning, 1-9

- Magicians, 8-9 –
 - Deceived by imitation
 - Previous warning, Ac.20:28-31

Forewarned is forearmed

2. Correct course, 10

1. Investigate carefully (1 T.4:6; Lk.1:3)
2. Follow faithfully; 'a follower of...'
– 'Stay the course'

1 Tim.1:6

1 Tim.5:15

2 Tim.4:3-4

Acts 17:11

3. Courage, 12

- Brace yourself for persecution
- 10-12 – as Paul, so Timothy
 - Brace yourself

4. Conviction, 13

- Deceiver: swindler, cheat, imposter
 1. They 'go from bad to worse'
 2. They are deceiving and deceived

5. Continuation, 14

- In what you learned
- In what you are assured (firmly persuaded) of

6. Certainty, 15-17

- Stifle peer pressure, 10, 14

'Don't let the world around you
squeeze you into its own mold'

– Ro.12:2

6. Certainty, 15-17

- Stifle peer pressure, 10, 14
- Stick with Scriptures, 15-17

6. Certainty, 15-17

- Stifle peer pressure, 10, 14
- Stick with Scriptures, 15-17
- Start early, 15
 - Salvation through faith in Christ...
 - Includes NT Scriptures
 - Implied in 3:14
 - Proclaimed in 4:2

Stated in
2 Pt.3:15-16

6. Certainty, 15-17

- Stifle peer pressure, 10, 14
- Stick with Scriptures, 15-17
- Start early, 15
- Stand fast, 16
 - God-breathed. Ex.31:18
 - Jn.6:45, taught of God
 - 1 Th.4:9, taught of God
 - Jn.6:68, correct response

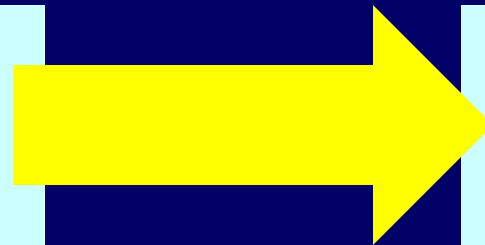
6. Certainty, 15-17

- Stifle peer pressure, 10, 14
- Stick with Scriptures, 15-17
- Start early, 15
- Stand fast, 16
- Study hard, 16
 - Powerful Word useless without knowledge. Mt.4
 - 2 Tim.1:13; 2:2 (3:14)

6. Certainty, 15-17

- Stifle peer pressure, 10, 14
- Stick with Scriptures, 15-17
- Start early, 15
- Stand fast, 16
- Study hard, 16
- Stay late, 17

Correct
thinking



Consecrated
living

Summary

1. Counterfeit warning
2. Correct course
3. Courage
4. Conviction
5. Continuation
6. Certainty

Summary

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ