

## A Study of 2 Timothy 3

### I. Outline.

1. An Explanation of the Future (2 Timothy 3.1-9).
2. An Example from the Past (2 Timothy 3.10-13).
3. An Exhortation for the Present (2 Timothy 3.14-17).

-- Warren W. Wiersbe, [Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 648.

### II. Exegetical Exam on 2 Timothy 3.

01. Give your own outline of this chapter.
02. Define and apply ten of the nineteen characteristics of the evil men.
03. Why did Paul describe in such elaborate detail, the sins of the last days?
04. What was the purpose of mentioning Jannes and Jambres?
05. In what manner had Timothy followed Paul? (cf., 2 Timothy 3.10a).
06. In what sense had God delivered Paul?
07. Give your own exegesis of 2 Timothy 3.12.
08. In what sense had the Old Testament made Timothy wise unto salvation?
09. Define INSPIRATION, as it relates to the Scriptures.
10. Are we to believe the Scriptures furnish us completely only as they relate to our religious life?

--Don DeWalt, *Paul's Letters to Timothy and Titus*, Bible Study Textbook Series, College Press, An e-Sword Module.

### III. Chronology.

**BIBLE PERIOD:** The Period of the Church.

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### IV. Aids in Exposition.

#### 1. An Explanation of the Future (2 Timothy 3.1-9).

2 Timothy 3:1-9 **This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (8) Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. (9) But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.**

- **LAST DAYS** (1)... When Pentecost Day of Acts 2 came, there were present Jews from every nation under heaven (Acts 2.5). When the apostles of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 4), there were some unusual happenings that accompanied their baptism in the Spirit. Jesus had already made clear that when the kingdom came, it would come WITH POWER (Mark 9.1). Also, He had told the apostles that the POWER would come when the Holy Spirit came (Acts 1.8). Outward manifestations of the coming of the POWER and the Holy Spirit were: (1) A sound as of a rushing mighty wind (Acts 2.2); (2) Cloven tongues like as of fire sitting upon the apostles (Acts 2.3); (3) The apostles speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2.4). These happenings were noised abroad (Acts 2.6) with the result being an assembly of a multitude of confounded Jews. Each of them—no matter what language they spoke—were able to hear the apostles in their own language (v. 6). There had to be an explanation because the speakers were known to be Galileans (v. 7). They asked: **WHAT MEANETH THIS?** (Acts 2.12). One answer came that the speakers were full of new wine (v. 13). However, Peter stood up with the eleven other apostles and gave the true, God-given explanation. He told them that what was happening on that Pentecost Day was that which Joel had prophesied earlier in Joel 2.28-32. Notice Acts 2:17... **And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.** Peter told the people that the explanation of the strange happenings on that Pentecost Day was to be found in something Joel had written would take place **IN THE LAST DAYS**. If we study this context carefully, we will conclude that the LAST DAYS began at Pentecost of Acts 2 and are to continue until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus.
- **PERILOUS** (1)... “**22.29** χαλεπός, ή, όν: pertaining to that which causes trouble and hardship, with an implication of violence—‘troublous, distressful, violent.’ ... this expression in 2 Tm 3:1 can perhaps be best rendered in some languages as ‘in the last days, people will suffer very much.’” [Louw Nida].
- **LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES** (2)... “This is the sin of selfishness, a sin which has always characterized the human family. It is natural and right for each individual to be concerned about himself, but when he places his own wishes and needs above those of others, and seeks to gratify himself at the expense of others, sin enters the picture” [Bob Winton, *2 Timothy*, p. 178].
- **COVETOUS** (2)... “**25.108** φιλάργυρος, ον: pertaining to the love of wealth or money” [Louw Nida].
- **BOASTERS** (2)... “**88.220** άλαζών, όνος *m*: (derivative of άλαζονεία ‘pretentious pride,’ 88.219) one who is pretentiously proud and given to bragging about it—‘braggart, arrogant person.’” [Louw Nida].
- **PROUD** (2)... “**88.214** ύπερήφανος, ον: pertaining to being ostentatiously proud—‘arrogant, haughty, contemptuous.’ ό θεός ύπερηφάνοις άντιτάσσεται, ταπεινοίς δέ δίδωσιν χάριν ‘God resists the haughty but gives grace to the humble’ Jas 4:6” [Louw Nida].
- **BLASPHEMERS** (2)... “**33.402** βλάσφημος, ον: (derivative of βλασφημέω ‘to blaspheme,’ 33.400) pertaining to being insulting and slanderous” [Louw Nida].
- **DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS** (2)... “The Hebrew-Christian tradition is one built upon the home and its associations. Filial piety is the foundation of this society. Failure to provide for and to requite relatives is equal to denying the faith; it is to become worse than an infidel (1 Timothy

5.8). Disregard for and disobedience to parents is thus a breakdown of society, a sin against God” [J.W. Roberts, *Letters to Timothy*, The Living Word, Sweet Publishing Co., 1961, p. 87].

- **UNTHANKFUL** (2)... “This is a lack of gratitude toward God and men. It is failure to recognize a debt owed. This also follows after **PARENTS**, the most logical ones to whom a debt is owed. One will always have a debt (Romans 13.8) of love” [Denny Petrillo, *Commentary on 1, 2 Timothy & Titus*, Quality Publications, 1998, p. 134].
- **UNHOLY** (2)... “**53.47** ἀνόσιος, ον: pertaining to what is not consecrated or devoted to God” [Louw Nida].
- **WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION** (3)... “... is *astorgos* (ἀστοργος). This is the Greek word denoting natural affection, with Alpha, which when prefixed to a word negates its meaning. The word is *stergō* (στεργω). Benjamin B. Warfield, in his excellent article in *The Princeton Theological Review* of April 1918, *The Terminology of Love in the New Testament*, defines it as follows: It designates ‘that quiet and abiding feeling within us, which, resting on an object as near to us, recognizes that we are closely bound up with it and takes satisfaction in its recognition.’ It is a love that is ‘a natural movement of the soul, something almost like gravitation or some other force of blind nature.’ It is the love of parents for children, and children for parents, of husband for wife, and wife for husband. It is a love of obligatoriness, the term being used here, not in its moral sense, but in a natural sense. It is a necessity under the circumstances. This is the binding factor by which any natural or social unit is held together” [Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 2 Ti 3:1].
- **TRUCEBREAKERS** (3)... “The word is made up of *spondē* (σπονδή), ‘a libation,’ which is a kind of sacrifice, and which accompanied the making of treaties and compacts. The Alpha prefixed, negates the word, and it means ‘refusing to enter into a treaty, irreconcilable, implacable’ [Wuest].
- **FALSE ACCUSERS** (3)... “**33.397** διάβολος, ον *m* and *f*. (derivative of διαβάλλω ‘to slander,’ not occurring in the NT) one who engages in slander” [Louw Nida].
- **INCONTINENT** (3)... “denotes ‘powerless, impotent,’ in a moral sense, unrestrained, ‘without self-control’” [W.E. Vine, *Vine’s Word Pictures*, An Olive Tree Bible Study App Module].
- **FIERCE** (3)... “**20.5** ἀνήμερος, ον: pertaining to fierceness, in the sense of being wild and untamed” [Louw Nida].
- **DESPISERS OF THOSE THAT ARE GOOD** (3)... “They have no love for good things or good people. Since God ultimately is the source of all good things, and has identified what is good (cf., Romans 12.9), these men simply have a disdain for spiritual things” [Denny Petrillo, p. 135].
- **TRAITORS** (4)... “**37.113** προδότης, ον *m*: (derivative of προδίδωμι ‘to betray,’ not occurring in the NT) one who delivers without justification a person into the control of someone else” [Louw Nida]. ||||| “Stephen accused the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem of always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as many of their fathers had done. He then asked: **Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murders** (Acts 7.51-52). I have a question for all of us to consider: ‘Was it more sinful to betray the Son of God than to betray the cause for which he died?’ Our world has betrayed the Lord in at least three ways: Preaching false doctrine, altering the Divine pattern for the work and worship of the church, and becoming friends with the world. Is the presence of so many traitors one of the ‘signs of the times?’” [Winford Claiborne, “The All-

Sufficient Scriptures,” in *Studies in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus*, 2001 ADL, Edited by Dub McClish, p. 294].

- **HEADY** (4)... “**88.98** προπετής, ἔς: pertaining to impetuous and reckless behavior” [Louw Nida]. ||||| “In the city of Ephesus, Paul’s preaching caused a tremendous uproar. He taught the Ephesians that there are no gods made with hands. The Ephesians might have mobbed Paul had not the town clerk appealed to the people by saying, ‘Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and do nothing rashly’ (Acts 19.36). The word **RASHLY** comes from the same Greek word rendered ‘heady.’ Our word **HEADSTRONG** is a good modern translation of the word. A careful examination of events in the 1960s and following will show how headstrong many of our young people were. Os Guinness’ book, *The Dust of Death: The Sixties Counterculture and How it Changed America Forever*, is tremendously helpful for those who want to know the basis for much that is happening in our day” [Winford Claiborne, p. 294].
- **HIGHMINDED** (4)... “**88.218** τυφόομαι: (a figurative extension of meaning of τυφόομαι ‘to be crazy, to be demented,’ not occurring in the NT) to be so arrogant as to be practically demented—‘to be insanely arrogant, to be extremely proud, to be very arrogant’” [Louw Nida].
- **LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD** (4)... “The kind of people described by this phrase are those who will exert every effort to gratify some lust of the flesh; they love pleasure more than they love God. PLEASURE may be divided into SINFUL pleasure and NON-SINFUL pleasure. **In every case**, sinful pleasures must be avoided; non-sinful pleasures can become sinful if they cause a Christian to exalt them above service to God (cf., Matthew 6.24, 33)” [Bob Winton, p. 182]. ||||| “This has been, and is, the characteristic of a great part of the world, and has often distinguished even many who profess religion. Of a large portion of mankind it may be said that this is their characteristic, that they live for pleasure; they have no serious pursuits; they brook no restraints which interfere with their amusements, and they greatly prefer the pleasures to be found in the gay assembly, in the ballroom, or in the place of low dissipation, to the friendship of their Creator” [Albert Barnes, [Notes on the New Testament: I Thessalonians to Philemon](#), ed. Robert Frew (London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885), 233]. ||||| “The English term is a translation of one word from the Greek—*philedonoi*. *Philos* means ‘love’ and *hedone* means ‘pleasure.’ Our English word HEDONISM means ‘devoted to pleasure.’” [Winford Claiborne, p. 295].
- **HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF** (5)... “The apostle concludes the above list of evil people and their wicked ways by stating that there would be a form of godliness present, but it would have no foundation; it would be mere pretense. The very ones who would claim to be Christians would be practicing some (or perhaps all) of the evils Paul has just listed. Naturally, their religion would be fruitless. ... This appallingly-clear depiction of corrupted Christianity is in plain sight today. Our nation has ever thought of itself as a ‘Christian nation,’ but has fallen far short of that ideal. To hold a form of godliness only, has no profit to the soul [Bob Winton, p. 183]. ||||| “They deny its power by failing to let its spirit dwell in their hearts, and its laws rule in their lives. Anyone denies the power of godliness when he professes to honor God, but refuses to obey His commandments” [David Lipscomb, *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles*, Volume V, Gospel Advocate, 1942, p. 230].
- **FROM SUCH TURN AWAY** (5)... “**TURN AWAY** (*apotrepou*) is a present tense, middle voice, imperative mood verb—a command that reflects the sense of ‘keep turning yourself away’ from such ones. It indicates that Timothy had done so already and he was to remain steady in

that course. This, incidentally, demonstrates that the ‘last days’ had begun already, and that the expression does not exclusively denote a period just before the Lord’s return.

Denominational ‘prophets of hysteria’ rattle off these godless traits and then declare that the Savior’s return is imminent. They merely beat the air with words” [Wayne Jackson, *Before I Die: Paul’s Letters to Timothy and Titus*, Christian Courier Publications, 2007, p. 259].

- **SILLY WOMEN LANDEN WITH SINS (6)**... NASB has “**WEAK WOMEN**.” “The weakness comes about because they are weighed down with sin. Not only that, but they are led away by various impulses. Their lusts control them and not sound reasoning, and this is why these men get in. These women want to listen to other people’s advice and are easily led astray. This does not imply that all women are like this, but those weighed down **with sin**” [Denny Petrillo, p. 136].
- **EVER LEARNING AND NEVER ABLE TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH (7)**... “E. F. Brown has pointed out the danger of what he calls ‘intellectual curiosity without moral earnestness.’ There is a type of person who is eager to discuss every new theory, who is always to be found deeply involved in the latest fashionable religious movement, but who is quite unwilling to accept the day-to-day discipline—even drudgery—of living the Christian life. No amount of intellectual curiosity can ever take the place of serious moral resolve. We are not meant to titillate our minds with the latest intellectual crazes; we are meant to purify and strengthen ourselves in the moral battle to live the Christian life” [William Barclay, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, 3rd ed. fully rev. and updated., The New Daily Study Bible (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003), 217].
- **JANNES AND JAMBRES (8)**... “In the days between the Old and the New Testaments, many Jewish books were written which expanded the Old Testament stories [i.e., UNINSPIRED books, DRL]. In certain of these books, Jannes and Jambres figured largely. These were the names given to the court magicians of Pharaoh who opposed Moses and Aaron, when Moses was leading the children of Israel out of their slavery in Egypt. At first, these magicians were able to match the wonders which Moses and Aaron did, but in the end they were defeated and discredited. In the Old Testament they are not named, but they are referred to in Exodus 7.11, 8.7, and 9.11. A whole collection of stories gathered round their names. They were said to be the two servants who accompanied Balaam when he was disobedient to God (Numbers 22.22); they are said to have been part of the great mixed multitude who accompanied the children of Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 12.38); some said that they perished at the crossing of the Red Sea; other stories said that it was Jannes and Jambres who were behind the making of the golden calf and that they perished among those who were killed for that sin (Exodus 32.28); still other stories said that in the end they became converts to Judaism. Amid all the stories, one fact stands out—Jannes and Jambres became legendary figures typifying all those who opposed the purposes of God and the work of his true leaders” [William Barclay, p. 218]. ||||| “Paul makes use of the common traditional knowledge of their names for his own good purpose. Exodus tells of their efforts to oppose the truth of God through Moses. The incident in the court of Pharaoh is doubtless before the mind of Paul when he wrote. Such men were not interested in whether Moses was from God or not; they were there to defend their master. Such dupes are described as ‘corrupt in mind’” [Don DeWalt].
- **SO DO THESE ALSO RESIST THE TRUTH (8)**... “The expression, *resist the truth*, implies at least two conclusions: (1) Truth exists, and we can know it. There has never been a time in my life when so many people—including a great number of devoutly religious people—have denied

that Truth exists or that we can know it. Joseph Fletcher said in a speech at Murray State University: "*Anyone who believes in absolute truth is an absolute fool.*" My brother-in-law, Robert Usrey, was an English teacher at Murray. At the conclusion of Fletcher's speech, Bob asked him if the statement he had made was absolute truth. Fletcher ignored Bob's question. Resisting the Truth is a very serious error, as one can determine by reading about Paul's encounter with Elymas the sorcerer (Acts 13:6-11). Stephen accused his Jewish persecutors of always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as their fathers had done (751-52)" [Winford Claiborne, p. 299].

- **REPROBATE** (8)... "They are rejected (ADOKIMOS) because they did not pass the test. They have been tested and found counterfeit. When they are measured by their faith, they are rejected" [Denny Petrillo, p. 138].

## 2. An Example from the Past (2 Timothy 3.10-13).

2 Timothy 3:10-13 **But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, (11) Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. (12) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (13) But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**

- **FULLY KNOWN MY DOCTRINE** (10)... "It seems significant that Paul would list **teaching** first in this list. Timothy is not to follow Paul because of his conduct, his purpose, his faith, or his vision BEFORE knowing and understanding what he is teaching. The teaching provides the basis on which to follow in conduct, purpose, faith, etc." [Denny Petrillo, p. 139].
- **AT ANTIOCH, AT ICONIUM, AT LYSTRA** (11)... "Timothy knew the afflictions that the apostle endured at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. He faced these persecutions with steadfastness, and was delivered from them by the Lord (Acts 13.50; Acts 14.19-20)" [Bob Winton, p. 187].
- **ALL THAT WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION** (12)... "Out of Paul's personal experience comes this general principle. The Christian is at war with the spirit of this present age. We can expect opposition if we are aggressively living for Christ. We cannot hope to live a holy life, except by vital union with Christ Jesus. But as we can be certain of the strength received by fellowship with Christ, so we can expect the hatred, misunderstanding, and persecution of the world. If we continue in a comfortable life with little or no opposition, we should re-evaluate our efforts to live for Him. If we have so adapted ourselves to the spirit of this present age of materialism and sensuality that we suffer no opposition, then we are no better than Lot in Sodom; indeed, we are worse" [Don DeWelt].
- **SHALL WAX WORSE AND WORSE** (13)... "Men who are given over to evil themselves and who beguile and lead others into sin wax worse and worse. There is no standing still morally or religiously. If a man is not improving, he is going backward. If he is going downward, he grows worse and worse every day he follows this course" [David Lipscomb, p. 235]. ||||| "Evil carries the seed of its own destruction, and that seed is usually its excess. The petty thief cannot stop at pettiness; he must try the big job. The list liar lies to cover his lies. The deceiver counts his 'converts' and looks for more dupes. The process goes on. Yet Paul has already said that in the end the progress will become manifest to all and come to naught" [J.W. Roberts, p. 90]. ||||| "These evil men and impostors, who persecute sincere believers and who strive to lead everyone astray, 'will proceed from bad to worse,' that is, *inwardly*: morally and spiritually, 'deceiving and being deceived.' The implication may well be that while they are

engaged in deceiving others, they themselves are being deceived. A ‘deluding energy’ is the punishment which those receive who would delude others. Delusion is their weapon; by delusion they are slain. They believe, or try to make themselves believe, that the falsehoods by means of which they would ensnare others will gain for themselves complete happiness and ultimate victory. In this they will be bitterly disappointed. ... Nevertheless, the emphasis in the present passage is not on ‘being deceived’ but on ‘deceiving,’ as is clear from the words which immediately follow. While some fall for this deception, let Timothy be on his guard. Let *him* remain firm and steadfast” [William Hendriksen, *The Pastoral Epistles*, Baker’s New Testament Commentary, 1957, An e-Sword Module].

### 3.An Exhortation for the Present (2 Timothy 3.14-17).

2 Timothy 3:14-17 **But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

- **ABLE TO MAKE THEE WISE UNTO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS (15)...** “Notice that Paul does not say the Old Testament alone makes wise unto salvation. It is by these Scriptures ‘in the light of’ the faith which is in Christ Jesus that this is accomplished The Old Testament is revealed in the New. Timothy had begun as a babe in the Old Testament. But now that he had become a man and now that the gospel had been proclaimed, the full light of God’s revelation had dawned” [J.W. Roberts, p. 91].
- **ALL SCRIPTURE (16)...** “GRAPHE is a select term in the New Testament that occurs 50 times, and always means the inspired, sacred writings. Paul would never affirm that everything written was inspired by God. But he does know of a body of writings, referred to as the GRAPHE that are inspired. Paul had earlier included Luke in this group of **sacred writings** (1 Timothy 5.18), and Peter calls the writings of Paul GRAPHE (2 Peter 3.16). This demonstrates that the Christians considered the writings of the Apostles and Prophets as inspired and of equal merit with those 39 inspired writings of the Old Testament canon” [Denny Petrillo, p. 143]. ||||| “Paul used the word for **SCRIPTURE** which simply means writing, or, in this case, recorded divine truth. It would include all of the Old Testament books and the fifteen or so New Testament books which had already been written (see 2 Peter 3.16)” [Gary Hampton, *Letters to Young Preachers*, 2012, An e-Sword Module].
- **GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD (16)...** “This phrase actually is one compound word in the Greek—THEOPHEUSTOS. This word, which occurs only here in the New Testament, could be literally translated ‘God breathed.’ The point this word illustrates is that God is the Source of the GRAPHE, not man. It is truly the ‘word of God’” [Denny Petrillo, p. 143].
- **PROFITABLE FOR DOCTRINE (16)...** “The important element in teaching, is content, The Scriptures provide ‘God breathed’ information to the teacher. He has the joy and awesome privilege of enlightening the mind and heart concerning what God has spoken” [Don DeWelt].
- **FOR REPROOF (16)...** “The Scriptures are valuable for *reproof*. It is not meant that the Scriptures are valuable for *finding fault*; what is meant is that they are valuable for convincing people of the error of their ways and for pointing them on the right path” [William Barclay, p. 225].

- **FOR CORRECTION** (16)... “The real meaning of this is that all theories, all theologies and all ethics are to be tested against the Bible. If they contradict the teaching of the Bible, they are to be refused. It is our duty to use and stimulate our minds; but the test must always be agreement with the teaching of Jesus Christ as the Scriptures present it to us” [William Barclay, p. 227].
- **FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS** (16)... “**33.226** παιδεύω; παιδεία, ας *f*: to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior—‘to teach, to instruct, to train, teaching, instruction” [Louw Nida].
- **THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE PERFECT THOROUGHLY FURNISHED** (17)... “Paul makes a final point. The study of the Scriptures trains people in righteousness until they are equipped for every good work. Here is the essential conclusion. The study of the Scriptures must never be selfish, never simply for the good of an individual’s own soul. Any conversion which makes someone think of nothing but the fact that *he or she* has been saved is no true conversion. We must study the Scriptures to make ourselves useful to God and to other people. No one is saved who does not have a burning desire to save others” [William Barclay, p. 227]. ||||| “This text, as we have shown, envisions the completion of the New Testament Scriptures. But it distinguishes sharply between that which is Scripture and all other writings. That anticipated completion of the Scriptures brings the man of God into the completeness of **all** that he needs. So Jesus had said that ‘all the truth’ would be given (John 16.13). Jude writing at a somewhat later date, when the canon was complete, asserts that the faith had been ‘**once for all delivered to the saints**’ (Jude 3). There is no place in the teaching of the Scriptures for ‘latter-day prophets’ and revelations. The only anticipation of future revelations, Scriptures, and ‘Keys’ to the Scriptures is that of the coming of false prophets and deceiving teachers” [J.W. Roberts, p. 93].

## V. Lessons & Applications.

- 2 Timothy 3:1 **THIS KNOW ALSO, THAT IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME.** “First, we should remember that the phrase, *the last days*, is a common one used throughout in the Bible in reference to the Old Testament, the Messianic Age, and the last dispensation (Christian age). Paul is merely mentioning some of the hardships that Christians were going to have to face. Evil men were to wax worse and worse, and even men in the church would rise up and cause trouble for the faithful of God. More than likely these circumstances have occurred numerous times throughout the history of the church. The specific sins listed after this verse are indicative of what happens when a society rejects God’s influence. This passage is not to be read as an indicator of the end of time, but rather as a passage of warning to our first-century brethren of problems to come. These problems would be manifested both in and out of the church. Let us warn people of the dangers of taking passages out of their contexts and trying to apply them to situations which are contrary to plain Biblical teachings” [Michael Light, “Answering False Doctrines Relating to 1, 2 Timothy and Titus,” in *Studies in 1, 2 Timothy and Titus*, 2001 ADL, Edited by Dub McClish, p. 483].
- 2 Timothy 3.10—**BUT THOU HAST FULLY KNOWN MY DOCTRINE...** “It seems significant that Paul would list **teaching** first in this list. Timothy is not to follow Paul because of his conduct, his purpose, his faith, or his vision BEFORE knowing and understanding what he is teaching. The teaching provides the basis on which to follow in conduct, purpose, faith, etc. The point and application for us is this: Should we follow something just because it has some notable characteristics?

Suppose there is a group that is very evangelistic. Is that reason alone enough to follow them? Is that the only criteria on which we might join efforts with them (because they are soul-winners?). Certainly God expects us to be smarter than that. If the doctrine is not right, then we certainly should not follow in anything else. We are to **'test the spirits to see if they are from God'** (1 John 4.1). In the Old Testament a supposed 'prophet' was to be examined on the basis of his teaching before the people were to follow after him (Deuteronomy 13.1ff)." [Denny Petrillo, p. 139].

2 Timothy 3:12 **YEA, AND ALL THAT WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION.** "Jesus pronounced a blessing upon them who are persecuted for righteousness' sake (Matthew 5.10). Peter said if we suffer for well-doing we shall be blessed, but if we suffer for wrong-doing it is nothing more than we deserve (1 Peter 2.20). Preachers have been known to abuse audiences with wholesale accusations of dishonesty, impurity or motives, implying indecencies, until the people of the community were so aroused that they closed the doors of the public gathering places against the preachers, and even did physical violence to them. This is not the persecution of our text. Faithful uncompromising preaching of the gospel many times brings persecution, and blessed is the preacher who accepts it without reviling or threatening. But when preachers suffer for unrighteous abuse and false accusations of groups they have nothing whereof to glory, and there will be no reward for it. While it is wrong to abuse audiences it is also wrong to compromise the gospel in an effort to keep from contradicting the doctrines and practices of those present. There is a tendency in preachers to soften the commandments, dull the edge of the sword, of the word that they may not lose the friendship of people. In the language of our text this would not be living godly in Christ Jesus. If people would be as active as the apostles in carrying the gospel to others, would there not be as much persecution today as there was in their day, though in different forms?" [Roy H. Lanier, Sr., *Teacher's Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1950, pp., 218-219].

2 Timothy 3:15 **AND THAT FROM A CHILD THOU HAST KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE THEE WISE UNTO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS.** "... Hence we learn from this Scripture that the Bible has its place in the family. It should be read and believed by the parents. They should teach it to their children that those children might learn to have faith in Christ, that they might exercise that faith in order that they might have the salvation which it offers them in Christ Jesus. Parents who neglect to teach their children the Bible sin against God, and sin grievously against their children. Every home should have a definite program of Bible study for the children, so that their young minds might be filled with holy thoughts and that they might have the examples of holy men and women before them during the formative period of their lives" [Roy H. Lanier Sr., *Teacher's Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1955, p. 23].

## VI. Questions.

### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was delivered out of persecutions.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul prophesied that in perilous times some would be disobedient to parents.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible is inspired.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Those who are ever learning always come to a knowledge of the truth.

05. \_\_\_\_\_ Jannes and Jambres supported Moses.

**I Found it in Verse(s)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Timothy had fully known some things about Paul.

07. \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible thoroughly furnishes man.

08. \_\_\_\_\_ A certain kind of times.

09. \_\_\_\_\_ Something about waxing.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ A turning away.

**Short Answer**

11. That which comes along with living godly in Christ:

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12. Paul said the time would come when men would be lovers of this...

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13. Something Timothy had known from childhood...

---

14. Complete this phrase: **LOVERS OF PLEASURES MORE THAN...**

---

15. Paul said those who resist the truth would proceed where?

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*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is: \_\_\_\_\_**

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to 2 Timothy 3 Questions...** **01**—True (3); **02**—True (23); **03**—False (8); **04**—False (18); **05**—True (12); **06**—17; **07**—5; **08**—22; **09**—10; **10**—16; **11**—a. Being a vessel unto honor, b. Being sanctified, c. Being meet [appropriate] for the Master's use (21); **12**—The husbandman that labors (6); **13**—The snare of the devil (26); **14**—The Word of God (9); **15**—a. Study, b. Rightly dividing the word of truth (15).

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. –DRL

C W F G O D L Y C H R I S T  
 O B O A S T E R S A W A Y R  
 M N A T U R A L C A B L E U  
 E P L E D J R G R F D I Y C  
 P E S C A E N O I F E D N E  
 R R O O Y S E O P E C I G B  
 O I L V S U D D T C E S U R  
 U L P E R S E C U T I O N E  
 D O C T R I N E R I V B H A  
 F U L O V E R S E O E E O K  
 A S T U T R U T H N D D L E  
 I K I S E L V E S S L I Y R  
 T N M B L A S P H E M E R S  
 H O E S M S E K N O W N V B  
 Y W S J S T P A R E N T S E

ABLE	AFFECTION	ALSO	AWAY	BLASPHEMERS
BOASTERS	CHRIST	COME	COVETOUS	DAYS
DECEIVED	DISOBEDIENT	DOCTRINE	FAITH	GODLY
GOOD	JESUS	KNOW	KNOWN	LAST
LEARNED	LOVERS	NATURAL	PARENTS	PERILOUS
PERSECUTION	PROUD	SCRIPTURE	SELVES	TIMES
TRUCEBREAKERS	TRUTH	UNHOLY		



**IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...**

*Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!*

**W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?**

**W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...**

**W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...**