

REKINDLE THE EMBERS A Study in 2 Timothy

LESSON 4

Prayerfully read 2 Timothy 3:1-17 in your Bible, highlighting and noting those things the Lord speaks to your heart.

Re-read the following verses from the Amplified Bible:

2 Timothy 3:1-5: “But **understand** this, that in the last days will come perilous times of great stress and trouble, hard to deal with and hard to bear. For people will be lovers of self and utterly self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate, greedy desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive, blasphemous, scoffing, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. They will be without natural human affection, callous and inhuman, relentless, admitting of no truce or appeasement; they will be slanderers, false accusers, troublemakers, intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. They will be treacherous betrayers, rash and inflated with self-conceit. They will be lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than lovers of God. For although they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it, their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession. **Avoid all such people, turn away from them.**”

As we read these Scriptures we see a perfect description of the times we are now living in. Paul gives Timothy a couple of warnings that we need to pay attention to and heed: First, in verse 1 he tells him to **understand** these times will bring great stress and trouble; they will be hard to deal with and hard to bear.

- 1) Knowing and understanding this, how do you think we should prepare ourselves for the increasing stress and trouble that lies ahead? For insight see Philippians 4:6–9; Colossians 4:2 & 5&6; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-9; 1 Peter 1:13; 1 Peter 5:6-9.

The second warning is found in verse 5. Paul tells Timothy to **avoid** all such people; turn away from them.

- 2) Who specifically do you think these people are that Paul is talking about? How can we avoid them? Why should we avoid them? Look at Romans 16:17 & 18; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; Jude 1:12.

2 Timothy 3:6-7: “For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate silly and weak-natured and spiritually dwarfed women, loaded down with the **burden of their sins** and **easily swayed** and **led away** by various **evil desires** and **seductive impulses**. These weak women **will listen to anybody** who will teach them; they are **forever inquiring** and **getting information**, but are never able to arrive at a recognition and knowledge of the Truth.”

There are several important insights Paul gives us in these verses that we need to take note of. One has to do with those who are **false teachers** and that look for and search out those who are weak and vulnerable.

- 3) Look up the following Scriptures and record the examples of what these false teachers tried to propagate into the church: Galatians 2:4, 2 Peter 2:1 and Jude 4.

- a. What do each of these verses tell us about the “way” these false teachers come into the church?

- 4) Another insight we need to take note of concerns those who **listen** to these false teachers. Look up the following Scriptures in several different Bible versions, if possible, and then write out a description of those who easily fall prey to doctrinal error: Proverbs 14:15, Romans 16:18, Ephesians 4:14.

- 5) Why are these “weak women” forever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the Truth? For additional insight, look up Hebrews 5:12-14 and share your thoughts.

- 6) Paul likens these false teachers to Jannes and Jambres, who some scholars believe to be two magicians from Egypt who tried to **imitate** the miracles that God sent Moses to do before Pharaoh. Their names are not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture, but they are referred to by several ancient historians and no doubt their names have been passed down in Jewish culture from generation to generation since the time of Moses. The point here is that these false teachers can **imitate the truth**, often convincingly, so that weak-minded people are captured by their rhetoric and are led astray. However, in the end, what does Paul tell us their final destiny will be? (See 2 Timothy 3:9).

- 7) Paul commends Timothy in verse 10 for following in his example. List the things Paul states Timothy followed Paul in.

2 Timothy 3:12: “Indeed, all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Christ Jesus will meet with persecution.”

- 8) Why do you think this is the case? Is this part of God’s plan and purpose or just the way the world deals with exposure to the light? See John 15:18-21; and 1 Peter 4:3-4.

2 Timothy 3:16-17: “Every Scripture is God-breathed, given by His inspiration and profitable for **instruction**, for **reproof** and **conviction of sin**, for **training in righteousness**, in **holy living**, in **conformity to God’s will** in **thought, purpose** and **action**, so that the man of God may be **complete** and **proficient**, **well fitted** and **thoroughly equipped** for **every good work**.”

- 9) How is Paul telling us we can be complete and proficient? What makes us well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work?

- 10) What does God’s Word train us in, according to this verse?

- 11) What is God’s Word profitable for? Make a list from verses 16 and 17.

12) How can we discover God's will and His purpose? (See Psalm 119:105)

a. **Optional:** If you have time, go through Psalm 119 in its entirety and make a list of all the things the psalmist states that God's Word provides for him.

13) How do these verses affect you personally? Is there something specific the Holy Spirit is ministering to you?

14) Share some of the things you first noted or highlighted when you read through this chapter at the beginning of our lesson.

15) What ministered the most to your heart as you went through this lesson?

“Nothing is more common than for persons to be very busy and active in religion, and even to ‘learn’ many things about it, who still remain strangers to the saving power of the gospel.”

Albert Barnes (1798-1870) American Theologian and Commentator

“Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him.”

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) British Missionary to China, Founder of China Inland Mission

“If you want to be led by the Spirit of God, then devote yourself to the Word of God.”

J. D. Greear (1973- Present) Pastor, President of the Southern Baptist Convention