

Perilous Times

2003

There has been given to us, a list of characteristics that describe those that would have the form of godliness, but "deny the power of God."

Who is to be found in this list?

When do the people in this list live?

What is the sign of the end times?

Christ said that even in His time upon the earth the end was even at the door. Two thousand years later people live as if there is no end of time. Who are these people fooling?

God told Noah to build a boat that would save those that would get on board; after preaching 120 years that the end is near, only eight got on board the Ark. "As in the days of Noah, so shall the coming of the son of man be." Matthew 24:37-39

2 Timothy 3:1-4: gives a list of characteristics of end times people.

1. The last days will be perilous times. No other place in the Bible is the word "perilous" used. Dictionary states: Perilous - very dangerous: involving exposure to very great danger. Any way you look at it, the end times will be bad!

2. People shall be lovers of their own selves! Think about that.....

3. People will be covetous! People now want and want and want, even when they can't afford to have.

4. People will be boasters! Dictionary states: to praise yourself, or speak arrogantly about things you possess or have achieved. Just listen to people talk about themselves!

5. People will be very proud! You may recall that it was pride that led to Lucifer being cast out of heaven. But when you really think about it closely, he had the whole list! The Bible teaches that the person that is prideful will not be in heaven. Think about it, if God allowed anyone in heaven that fit the descriptions of this text, He would have to apologize to Lucifer and allow him back into heaven. People are so prideful, even those that claim to know "Jesus as their personal Savior".

6. People will be blasphemers! The Bible states that a blasphemer is a person that makes themselves to be god. There are many religious groups that claim that man, over a process of time, can be god. Think about that! God has placed his signature on all of creation. He has created something from nothing!

7. People will be disobedient to parents! The Asian people are quite new to the western way of thinking and these people still very much do respect their parents. The western mind however will tell the parent what they are going to do, like it or not! Think about it! Even though we may have some good children, they have become manipulative of the parents for their own selfish needs. Lucifer stated "I will" five times, in his proud boast about how he would take the place of God and overthrow the heavenly host of angels.

8. People will become unthankful! Dictionary states: without feelings of gratitude. People are not thankful. They believe that the government owes them something. They believe that anyone that has, should give to them that have not, whether they earned it or not. They also have no sense of the debt they owe to their Creator and their Redeemer!

9. People will be unholy! The Bible states that we are to be holy because God is Holy. The character of God is that He cannot tolerate SIN. Yet we as a people of God, tolerate sin in our body on a continual basis. We explain it away by saying, "Surely God....." (Before we finish the statement.... that is blasphemy). We cannot begin to imagine what God would allow in our body. We cannot begin to imagine how God thinks! "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9 All unrighteousness is sin, so therefore if we find ourselves doing unrighteous things, we sin and God cannot tolerate sin, so we then become unholy. One man lived thousands of years ago, before the flood, when the known world was "evil continually", that was Enoch, and "He walked with God and God took him", Enoch was a holy man!

10. People will be without natural affection! Jude 10 refers to such a person as a "Brute Beast", then continues to say "Woe unto them for they have gone the way of Cain". Cain murdered his brother Able because God did not bless the offering that he, Cain, gave of his own hands. Selfishness is the definition of a multitude of sins. Natural affection is the love that God placed within our being to have for one another. We are now living in a time where a child growing in its mother's womb is worth only the amount of money required to abort it. God wants us to love one another!

11. People will be:

A. Trucebreakers - Breaking agreements and promises whenever it is convenient to do so. For example: breaking, an agreement for cessation of military hostilities that both sides agreed to hold to.

B. False Accusers - to charge somebody falsely who is not guilty of crime or what we accuse them of.

C. Incontinent - unrestrained and uncontrolled, primarily lacking restraint in sexual matters. - Today more and more young people are engaging in premarital sexual events.

D. Fierce - characterized by or showing aggression or anger. More and more people are demonstrating these characteristics than they have ever before. People will blow you away for cutting them off in traffic.

12. People will be despisers of those that are good! When you are condemned for being a Christian, in the United States of America, then evil has come to despise those that are good. People in and of themselves are not evil, they only have a depraved nature, but they are being used by evil to despise those that love God and who are the called according to His (God's) purpose in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are either serving God or serving Satan. Even when we serve ourselves we are serving the evil one, for he that knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

13. People will be:

A. Traitors - Those who betray the trust of others, and behave in a disloyal or treacherous manner

B. Heady - impetuous: impulsive and rash in behavior

C. High-minded - To inflate ones-self with self-conceit, to be lifted up with pride.

14. People will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God! There has not been any other time in these past two thousand years, since this book of Timothy has been written, that people love their pleasures more than they do today. Certainly they love pleasure more than they love God!

When people believe that the wealth that they have was achieved by their own hand and begin to indulge in the earthly pleasures that Satan has in place for us to partake of, then pleasure becomes first in our life. People say, "I'm going to treat myself, I deserve it!" We may say that we deserve a vacation and then spend \$8,000.00 on a partial world tour to partake of the pleasures of the world. The love of God is where your heart is. If we truly love God we would use the money given to us more wisely to promote the work of the Lord. There are more people at a football game on Saturday than there is in Church. People are lovers of pleasure, more than lovers of God.

15. People have a form of godliness but they deny the power of God! "We are Christians, we love the Lord" while we are at church! But during the week we deny Gods power. We say we love the Lord but we do not pray; we deny the power of God. We say that we want everyone to know Jesus as their Savior, but our next door neighbor does not even know that we are a Christian; we deny the power of God. When we declare to all those around us that we love the Lord our God and we do not support the great commission that Christ gave us that is to go into all the world, support missions, support the local church and support the needy, and we have in our power to do so, we deny the power of God. What power are you neglecting in your life? Do you only have a form of godliness or are you demonstrating the power of God in all that you do?

16. Then this section ends with: "From such turn away." We are to turn form all of these things that are listed. The Bible tells us not to be partakers of other people's sins. "He that knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." The people that are found classified with these listed are those who are "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth".

From such, turn away!