

Study 3

Read 2 Timothy Chapter 3

2 Timothy 3 Discernment to Grow in the Truth

- The only answer to the end time apostasy or rejection of the truth is to continue in God's Word - vs. 14. If we turn from God's Word, we have no discernment against the deceptions of our day, we have no standard by which to measure life, we have no answer to the eternal needs of people, and we will not be equipped to serve Christ in our day. Continue in the Word! It is THE answer for end time problems.

1. Verse 1 What can you be sure will be coming in the last days?

2. Verses 2-5 List the characteristics of the last days and describe how these are evident in our day:

3. Verse 5 How is a believer supposed to respond to people like this? Why?

4. Verses 6-7 What kind of women give these people a hearing? Why are they so vulnerable?

5. Verse 8-9 In what ways are many of these end-time characters like Jannes and Jambres?

6. Verses 10-11 What practices of Paul's life did Timothy follow? How does this describe discipleship?

7. Verse 12 What will most certainly happen to those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus?

8. Verse 13 What can we expect from evil men? Why are they deceiving others?

9. Verse 14 In what was Timothy to continue?

10. Verse 15 Why are the sacred writings so important? What do they teach you?

11. Verse 16 What is true about all Scripture? What is it profitable for? Explain how each of the four qualities leads to the next.

12. Verse 17 What is the Scripture able to do for the man of God?

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. How do we avoid the three loves of 1 Timothy 3:1-4 – self, money, and pleasure?

2. Did you have anyone in your life as a child like Timothy had in his – his mother and grandmother? What influence did they have?

3. How would you explain the doctrine of the inspiration and sufficiency of God's Word based on 2 Timothy 3:15-17?

Summing Up ...

“The church today faces times of unparalleled difficulty and danger. As extraordinary opportunities for spreading the gospel increase with rapidity after the breakup of much of the former Communist world, attacks on the church are also increasing with great speed. Heresy, apostasy, self-will, and their accompanying moral decadence are engulfing the evangelical church. Like cancer cells that rebel against the body, these evils are in rebellion against God by corrupting and weakening the church, the body of Christ. Also like cancer cells, the evils multiply rapidly and choke out and destroy normal cells. Much like white cells in the blood, which will not attack cancerous cells because they are identified with the body, many naive and careless church leaders take no action against corruption in the church simply because the corruption hides behind the guise of orthodoxy. Simply put, much of the church is in rebellion against the Lord.”—John MacArthur