

"Living in Times of Difficulty"

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Robby Higginbottom | November 3, 2026

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1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will
be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents,
ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not
loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than
lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such
people. 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women,
burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to
arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men
also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they
will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

Notes

Scan QR code to register for Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that we're living in "the last days" (v. 1)?
   How should this understanding give us perspective and motivation?

2. Let's evaluate different explanations of the root problem(s) in the world.
   According to the world around us, why are we living in "times of difficulty"?
   According to Paul, why are we living in "times of difficulty"?

3. What does it mean that the root of sin is disordered loves?
   How do we see the love of self, money, and pleasure around us and in us?

4. Which items in Paul's list do we see most clearly in the culture around us?
   Which items in Paul's list do we see in our own lives?

5. In what ways have we had the appearance of godliness but denied its power (v. 5)?
   If we long "to be rather than to seem", how do we move toward that?

6. How do we balance confronting and avoiding the kind of people that Paul describes?

7. How does such a devastating passage about sin point us to Jesus Christ?
   In the midst of difficult times, how are we seeking to "remember Jesus Christ" (2 Tim 2:8)?

For Next Week

Spend some time focusing on next week's passage: 2 Timothy 3:10-17.

Here are questions to help us understand the passage:

- Paul describes the persecution he experienced in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra (vv. 10-13). Read Acts 13-14 to understand the details and severity of this persecution.
- According to verse 15, what is the primary purpose of Scripture ("the sacred writings")? Compare this with what Jesus says in Luke 24:44-49.
- Paul says all Scripture is "breathed out by God" (v. 16). Why is this doctrine of inspiration so important? How does it help us to embrace the various ways the Scriptures equip us for every good work?

Here are questions to connect the passage to our lives:

- One of the themes of 2 Timothy is the discipleship of God's people through relationships with godly pastors and family members. Has there been a godly pastor or family member in your life that has discipled you? If not, what step could you take toward establishing a relationship like this?
- Why is it so important for all discipleship to be grounded in Scripture?
- Some people assume God's Word is primarily aimed at helping us with our doctrine (mind), our devotion (heart), or our duty (hands). Why is it important to remember that the Bible addresses all three of these areas?