

Facing Perilous Times 4337

I. The Last Days

- A. Secret things belong to the Lord, but the revealed things belong to us for us to do them (Deut. 29:29)
- B. Light gets brighter, darkness gets deeper (Is. 60:1–3)
 - 1. Compare Israel in Egypt—9th plague (Ex. 10:21–23)
 - 2. God’s promise to Abraham’s seed (Gen. 15:5 [Gal. 3])
- C. Wheat and tares ripening together (Matt. 13:30 [Matt. 13:38–39])
 - 1. The wheat is the sons of the kingdom
 - 2. The tares are the sons of the wicked one
 - 3. The same climatic conditions ripen both; namely, *permissiveness*
- D. Good and evil both increasing simultaneously (Rev. 22:10–12 [Prov. 16:4])

II. 2 Timothy 3: Picture Of Last Times

- A. Times of stress (Stress is a person)
- B. Degeneration of human character (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
 - 1. Corruption is irreversible
 - 2. Eighteen marks of corruption
 - 3. Genuine faith must deal with root: self-love, which results in a lack of power
- C. Unscrupulous teachers exploiting gullible women (2 Tim. 3:6–7)
- D. Open opposition of occult (2 Tim. 3:8–9, 13)
 - 1. Moses vs. Egypt’s magicians (Ex. 7:8–12)—the issue settled by power, not theology
 - 2. Imposters: literally, enchanters—i.e., occult practitioners

III. Directions For Christians

- A. Expect to face persecution (2 Tim. 3:10–12 [compare Matt. 24:9–13])
- B. Hold fast to all Scripture (2 Tim. 3:14–17)
- C. To ministers: preach and teach the whole counsel of God (2 Tim. 4:14 [compare Paul in Acts 20:20–21, 26–27])
- D. Four final directions (2 Tim. 4:5)
 - 1. Be watchful
 - 2. Endure afflictions
 - 3. Maintain emphasis on evangelism
 - 4. Complete your allotted task (compare Jesus in John 4:34)