

## **“In The Last Days”**

3:1-9

**2TI 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult [terrible] times will come.**

1. “But realize this” is literally “But this you know..”
2. “[*The*] last days” do not primarily refer to the end of the world, but refer to all the generations to come.
  - a. These words refer to the end of the Jewish age and the Christian dispensation. (Acts 2:17; Heb. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; 1 Jn. 2:18; 1 Cor. 10:11).

ACT 2:17 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says,' That I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams;

HEB 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

1PE 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

1JO 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1CO 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. The Christian age is the last age of the three ages - Patriarchal, Mosaical, Christian.

### **Note:**

- The language here is used in the Old Testament to mean “the days to come,” that is “the future.” (Gen. 49:1; Num. 24:14; Deut. 4:30; Isa. 2:2; Jere. 23:20; 30:24; 48:47; 49:39; Ezek. 38:16; Dan. 2:28; 10:14; Hos. 3:5; Mic. 4:1).
  - The language must not be given a single meaning, but must be interpreted and understood always by the context.
  - John used “the last hour” not to mean the literal last hour of the world had come, but to denote a time of crisis had come upon the church. The “antichrists” had already arrived. and among other things were denying the humanity of Christ. (1 Jn. 2:18).
  - In Hebrews 1:2 “in these last days” refers to the end of Jewish age and the arrival of the Son of God in the world to save man.
- b. These words “difficult times” describe men in every generation of the Christian age who reject Christ and the gospel.
    - 1) There were wicked men in the time of Noah. (Gen. 6:5).
    - 2) There were wicked men throughout the Old Testament dispensation.

- 3) There were wicked men in the time of Christ and the apostles. (Rom. 1:18-31).
  - 4) They are true today and will be in all future generations.
3. “Difficult times will come” - These words are not speaking of the distance future, but of what had already come.
- a. “chalepos” [kah leh **pahs**] means “grievous, difficult, terrible.”
  - b. It will be very difficult to be a Christian throughout the whole Christian dispensation.
    - 1) This does not mean the difficulty of living for Christ will not have times when persecution is more the exception than the rule.
    - 2) Now there is a lot of persecution in some parts of the world and nearly none in other parts.
  - c. Jesus spoke of the difficulty of being a Christian. (Matt. 5:10-12; Jn. 15:20-23).
  - d. Paul later reveals, in this chapter, just how hard it would be. (2 Tim. 3:12). See 1 Pet. 4:12-17.

### **Explanation of Verse 1**

**2TI 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,**

- 1. The word “men” is used generically for men/women.
  - a. What Paul writes is true of both genders.
  - b. Men and women in every age have lived in the abominable way described by Paul.
- 2. Paul gives this deplorable description of those “in the last days [the Christian dispensation].”
  - a. “lovers of self” - self-centered, selfish. See Tit. 1:7. Elders are “not self-willed, not self-pleasing.”
  - b. “lovers of money” - greedy for money, money is first. See Lk. 16:14.
  - c. “boastful” - boasters, conceited. See Rom. 1:30; Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5.
  - d. “arrogant” - haughty, conceited. See 1 Cor. 13:4.
  - e. “revilers” - blasphemers, speaking evil of God and spiritual things.
  - f. “disobedient to parents” (Rom. 1:30; Eph. 6:1-3).

ROM 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

EPH 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

EPH 6:2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),

EPH 6:3 that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

- g. “ungrateful” - never or rarely giving thanks to God or man, thankless, unthankful

h. “unholy” - wicked, resisting what God says, satisfying their own unholy desires.

**2TI 3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,**

1. “unloving” is from “astorgos” [**ah** stahr gahs] meaning “without natural affection, without love for family and friends, hard-hearted.”
2. “irreconcilable” - unforgiving, implacable (unable to be appeased).
3. “malicious gossips” - slanderers, determined to hurt and destroy others. The Greek is the plural of “diabolos” [dee ah bah lahs] - meaning “slanderers.”
4. “without self-control” - incontinent, uncontrollable, doing whatever they feel like
5. “brutal” - brutal, savage, untamed
6. “haters of good” - hating good things/people.
  - a. Darkness hates light.
  - b. Evil men most often seek to destroy or put down the light that makes them look bad.
  - c. God’s children are to “cling” and “imitate” good. (Rom. 12:9; 3 Jn. 11).

ROM 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

3JO 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

**2TI 3:4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;**

1. “treacherous” - betrayers, false to their friends, family and others.
2. “reckless” - Acting without thought, headstrong
3. “conceited” - blinded with pride, puffed up
4. “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” - They love pleasure more than God.
  - a. Many would like to live by the motto “If it feels good, do it.”
  - b. Pleasure is their god, that is, it is what governs their lives.
  - c. They put “mammon” [riches] and other pleasures before God. See Matt. 6:24.

**2TI 3:5 holding to a form of godliness [piety], although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.**

1. “holding to a form of godliness [religion]” - “godliness” is “eusebeia” [yoo **seh** bay ah] - “godliness, piety, reverential feeling.”
  - a. “form” is “morphosis” [**mahr** foh sees] meaning “embodiment, formulation, outward form, appearance.”

- b. It refers to those who only have an outward religion.
  - c. It has reference to those who perhaps attend church and perhaps participate in other things, but do not have a heart religion.
  - d. Their religion is fire insurance, not out of faith and love for the Father and His Son.
2. “although they have denied its power” - They turn their backs on the power of godliness, that is, resist its influence.
- a. They refuse to love God with their all. (Matt. 22:37).
  - b. They refuse to put God and His kingdom first. (Matt. 6:33).
  - c. They refuse to put their faith to work, and mostly have a dead faith. (Jas. 2:14-26).
3. “and avoid such men as these” - They should turn away from such men. (1 Cor. 15:33). See Psa. 1:1; 2 Jn. 10.
- a. Some are too deep in their lack of religious convictions, that is, they are past redemption and dangerous.
  - b. They pose a grave danger to those who are dedicated and enthusiastic about the Lord’s work, and will lead them astray if close associations are formed.

**2TI 3:6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,**

1. “For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak [silly, foolish] women”
- Lit. “for of these are the [ones] creeping into houses.” NIV “they are the kind who worm their way into homes.”
  - a. “gunaikaria” [goo ni **kah** ree ah] - “silly women” This word has the idea of “foolish, weak women.”
  - b. These weak women would be easy prey for these wicked teachers.
  - c. “Weak” does not necessarily mean they were ignorant or ashamed of their sins, but were women who paid attention to and followed the lascivious teachers.
2. “weighed down [lit. having been heaped] with sins, led on by various impulses [lusts]”
- a. “who are overwhelmed with the weight of their sins” - Wms.
  - b. Perhaps “women burdened with a sinful past” - NEB
  - c. Perhaps they were currently entangled in sin.
  - d. They were women easily swayed by many lustful cravings.

**2TI 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

1. “always learning” - These women would listen to any teacher who spoke what they wanted to hear.
- a. “Women of that kind are forever following new teachers” - Tay

- b. They prefer new teachers with teachings that appeal to them rather than teachers who present the truth.
2. “and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”
    - a. They are incapable of reaching “the knowledge of the truth.”
    - b. They remain confused and ignorant and very vulnerable.
    - c. They are not interested in Gods truth.

**2TI 3:8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected [worthless] as regards the faith.**

- Both the word “truth” and “faith” are preceded by the definite article “the.”

1. “And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses”
  - a. These were two Egyptian magicians. (Exod. 7:9-12).

EXO 7:9 "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Work a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'"

EXO 7:10 So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and thus they did just as the Lord had commanded; and Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent.

EXO 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, **the magicians of Egypt**, did the same with their secret arts.

EXO 7:12 For each one threw down his staff and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

- b. They were not mentioned by name in the Old Testament, but by inspiration or oral tradition or both Paul knew their names. The names Jannes and Jambres occur frequently in late Jewish, pagan, and early Christian literature.
  - c. The Old Testament does not reveal how many magicians Pharaoh called, but likely these two were the most prominent of the magicians. The number is not significant.
  - d. They quickly learned that their magic and tricks were no match for the Almighty God of heaven. (Exod. 7:12).
2. “so these men also oppose the truth” - These men were false teachers resisting and despising “the truth.”
  3. “men of depraved mind” - Their minds are totally corrupt.
  4. “rejected [worthless] as regards the faith” - “adokimos” [ah **dah** kee mahs] means to “stand the test, rejected, refuse, worthless.”
    - a. They [these false teachers] could not pass the tests of genuine faith.
    - b. They were “counterfeits so far as the faith is concerned” - Ber.
    - c. They do not hold a candle to the heros of faith described in Hebrews 11 and in other parts of the Bible.

**2TI 3:9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, as also that of those two came to be.**

1. “But they will not make further progress” - They will have short-lived successes.

- Lit. “But they will not advance to more [farther].
- NIV “But they will not get very far.”
  - a. They will do harm to the church, but will not be able to completely destroy it universally.
  - b. “The firm foundation of God” [the church] will always stand. (2 Tim. 2:19).

2TI 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness."

- c. See Notes on 2 Timothy 2:18 and Dan.2:44; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:28.
2. “for their folly will be obvious to all”
    - a. Their foolish, stupid behavior will be clear to all.
    - b. “All” most likely refers to genuine Christians.
    - c. Some or many would be duped by them especially those in the world.
  3. “as also that of those two came to be” - As was the case with Jannes and Jambres.
    - a. Moses certainly made the magicians look foolish.
    - b. Their power was no match for God’s awesome, infinite power.

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