

2 Tim 3:1-9 - Terrible Time, Terrible People



Read 2 Tim 3v1-9

1. Why does Paul begin the description of the people of terrible times with the call, 'But mark this' (3:1)? How do these verses relate to the verses that have come before?

The context is one of avoiding pointless quarrels with false teachers and instead 'gently instruct them' But there are worse false teachers who we should 'have nothing to do with'. (v5)

2. What theme runs through the list (note: look for repeated terms) (3:1–5)?

They love everything about 'themselves' but do not 'love' anyone else or God!

3. What do these people seek to do? Why are they dangerous (3:6–8)?

The key word is that they seek to 'control'. Presumably this serves their self loving tendencies. This is a spiritual/power control.

4. Who are most at risk and why?

They are dangerous because people who are suffering, weighed down by sin and not 'saturated in the truth' are therefore gullible and easy prey.

5. What is the ultimate end for these ungodly teachers (3:8–9)?

'Jannes and Jambres' were (according to Jewish tradition) the magicians who opposed Moses and Aaron when they approached Pharaoh to 'let God's people go' from slavery. They denied what they knew to be the truth (that the Israelites were God's people not theirs). Ultimately they will lose and be seen for who they are.

Application Time:

6. How does reading the description in 3:1–5 make you feel about yourself? What are the right and wrong conclusions to draw from your feelings as you read it?

Encourage openness here - It's right to feel guilt and remorse and return to Christ in repentance trusting in His grace. It would be wrong to respond in anger and rejection of

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this challenge (this in itself could be a sign of our 'self-loving') If this is us, we should check we truly do Love God before ourselves - turn to Him and enjoy his grace.

7. What is the main response Paul commends (3:5)? How do we go about putting this into practice? What would be some wrong ways of putting this verse into practice, and how do we avoid these?

We're not told to avoid non-Christians - this is a reminder to flee false teachers who are out to deceive us. Ideas to help us here would be to always have an open bible when people teach us. And we should keep an eye on church leaders character and motives.

8. What does this passage teach us about the kind of leaders we should seek and avoid? How will it help us to pray for our leaders?

Avoid leaders who express the characteristics shown here, and those who don't stick to the truth!

Pray for boldness and confidence in the truth of God's word - and for their character to be godly, not self-serving.

9. What is the warning from 3:6–9? What steps can we take to avoid being those who are taken in by the false teachers?

Read our bibles. Study the bible. Have an open bible when people teach us.

10. What is the comfort and encouragement that this passage offers the true believer? Why do we need to hear it?

False teachers will not succeed and will ultimately (in this life often and certainly in the next) be revealed for what they are.

Pray over what you have been encouraged and challenged by in this passage.