

# PERILOUS TIMES - PART 2

*1 Timothy 4:1 -- But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith....*



## Introduction

1. In this, the second of a two part sermon, we are looking at the “perilous” times prophesied by Paul. Unfortunately, as we have looked at those who characterize these times, we need to realize that they could easily mark our own time.
2. Not only has Paul helped us to recognize “the times”, but also, by his personal example, he has shown us what kind of character we need to be to deal with this problem age. The fact that it has been done in the past (by Paul) should give us hope that we can overcome now.

## B. How Evil Men Promote the Perilous Times

*2 Timothy 3:6-9 -- For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith. 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. Privately (v. 6)

- Evil men are said to “creep in”; they are sneaky and cunning.
- More can be accomplished privately and undercover than when done out in the open.
- Television, and society in general, plant seeds of humanism, feminism, and anti-Christian messages, subtly in books, music, movies and general conversation.
- Troublemakers in the church work undercover, and in the night, lest they be known. They start undercurrents without openly leading.

### 2. Preying on the unlearned and immature (v. 6)

- The “silly” are the gullible and weak-willed. Those who are easily flattered and impressed. They can be too open-minded so that anything is acceptable.
- They are usually influenced by false doctrine, because they do not know better, and by immorality, because they are not strong enough to resist.
- Humanists use this approach by seeking to impress the youngest of minds.

### 3. Preying on those interested in the novel (v.7)

- These are “always learning” but never coming to the truth.
- The reason is that they do not finish up the old because the novel always lures them away.

## C. Paul’s Conduct in the Midst of Ungodliness

*2 Timothy 3:10-13 -- But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me! And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

Here is the list of what Paul did to insure that he himself not only would remain strong, but how he could help Timothy strengthen others.

1. **Doctrine** - Paul kept on preaching the truth despite the times. Israel was destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6), so Paul made sure that Christians remained knowledgeable.
2. **Manner of life** - He always conducted himself in a godly manner. He practices what he preached in order to fully illustrate what he was talking about and reinforcing his own teaching with proper behavior.
3. **Purpose** - He always sought to please God and reach others with gospel. He also tried to instill goals in others so that they would remain strong with purpose and not just mill around, subject to any persuasion.
4. **Faith** - He kept his confidence in God and with His word.
5. **Long-suffering** - He was always patient, enduring without retaliating against those who did him wrong. People need to be given time to adjust and learn and appreciate the things of the Lord.
6. **Charity** - He loved, always acting in the best interests of others. He was rich in good deeds, like his master. It demonstrated the love of God through him to others.
7. **Patience** - He persevered and did not buckle under pressure. Because it was so critical to changing the world and souls for the better, failure was not an option.
8. **Persecutions:**
  - He suffered, yet he overcame (Acts 13:45; 14:5, 19).
  - Christians are told that all will suffer (v. 12). Paul bought into this.
  - The reason is, evil men will not go away (v. 13). We cannot ignore them, we must constantly be stuffing them back under their rocks, even to the point of burying them there, if we have to.

#### D. Continue In the Faith

*2 Timothy 3:14-17 -- You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture....*

1. **Remain in the truth** (vv. 14-15)
  - Timothy is to remember what he has been taught since a child.
  - It will make him wise unto salvation.
  - In spite of the path of world (vv. 1-5), he was to continue in God's will. Running with the herd does not of necessity mean salvation. Indians used to hunt buffalo by driving them over cliffs.
2. **Perilous times come because men depart from the truth**
  - These will resist the truth (v. 8), but keep telling them anyway.
  - Why Timothy was to teach, reprove, correct (vv. 14-17), in contrast to (vv. 1-5) allowing them to go with their own "think so."
3. **Remedy:** To point people back to the inspired word (vv. 16-17)
  - Paul's point is not merely to show the word is inspired.
  - In context, he is saying that the inspired word of God is the answer to the problems of vv. 1-5.