

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

Perilous Times Coming

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Lesson 20

Life is full of warning signs that are posted to help keep us safe. Ignoring these signs is not only foolish but can lead to all kinds of danger. In our study this week, we will encounter warning signs about the last days or end times. The last days refers to the time frame immediately before the return of Jesus. Because Paul knew his own death was near, he wanted to give Timothy some last minute wise counsel about what was to come. Paul writes that as the final days are drawing to a close, there will be perilous or dangerous times. He warns us all that difficult days are coming and he supplies us with a list of warning signs to look for and how we should respond.

Paul writes that the warning signs will be seen by looking at the human condition. We will see the nearness of Jesus' return when we see people love themselves and their money. They will also scoff at God and be disobedient to their parents. Their hearts will be unloving, ungrateful and unforgiving, and they will hate what is good. Additionally, they will be reckless, prideful and pleasure seeking. These are the characteristics that we must not ignore because they are crying out to us that Jesus is coming soon!

As Christians, we should live everyday as if Jesus is going to come back at any moment. Living this way helps us walk in purity and motivates us to reach out to others with the saving message of the Gospel. Just as Paul encourages Timothy in the closing of chapter three, we must continue in the things we have learned. In other words, we must stay in the Word of God and not depart from it! The Bible is our handbook for life and it will show us how to live as we excitedly wait for His return. It is a God-breathed message that is useful to teach us truth, to help us, and to correct us when we are headed in a wrong and dangerous direction. Pause for a moment and thank Him for this precious gift that equips us for everything we need to live in these last days.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:1-17

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was. ¹⁰But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹²Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."
2 Timothy 3:16***

1. In verses 1-5 of this week's scripture, Paul gives a list of what the world will eventually become. Compare this litany of ungodly attitudes and sins to what you see in the world today and note your thoughts. _____

- a. How does verse 5b tell us to treat these types of people? _____

2. What additional attributes are given in verses 6-7? _____

- a. What does 2 Peter 2:1 tell us about these people? _____

- b. According to 1 John 4:1, how can we prevent being fooled by these people? _____

3. Read verses 10-11 of this week's passage, and list the godly attitudes Paul was able to maintain even while he was being persecuted. _____

- a. What does Philippians 4:9 encourage us to do, and what will we receive if we obey? _____

- b. What further encouragement and promise does Philippians 4:6-7 give us? _____

- c. Are you encouraged by these passages? _____

"We who lived in the concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number; but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of his freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

– Viktor E. Frankl, Holocaust survivor (1905–1997)

Group Discussion

How do you maintain a good attitude when confronted with difficulties in your home, your work place or anywhere else? Do you have any helpful hints that you could share? _____

4. Verses 16-17 of this week's scripture truly are two of the most important verses in the Bible. According to verse 16, where do we get scripture? _____

a. What is it profitable for, according to verse 16? _____

b. What purpose does scripture serve, according to verse 17? _____

c. What additional attributes of the Word of God are given in Hebrews 4:12? _____

d. Which of these attributes encourages you the most and why? _____

"Born in the East and clothed in Oriental form and imagery, the Bible walks the ways of all the world with familiar feet and enters land after land to find its own everywhere. It has learned to speak in hundreds of languages to the heart of man. It comes into the palace to tell the monarch that he is a servant of the Most High, and into the cottage to assure the peasant that he is a son of God. Children listen to its stories with wonder and delight, and wise men ponder them as parables of life."

– Henry Van Dyke (1852–1933)

