

II Timothy: Lesson #61 – Staying With the Truth in Difficult Times

Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children

For Wednesday, Dec. 17th

Read II Tim. 3:1-4:5; Titus 1:10-16 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: II Tim. 4:2 “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

Difficult Times for Christians

- When most people have respect for God and goodness, Christians can live their lives serving Jesus without much of a problem. But when people don't fear God and live ungodly lives, it can be much harder to be Christians. Paul explains what people are like in times like this:
 - ⇒ Selfish
 - ⇒ Greedy
 - ⇒ Think too much of themselves.
 - ⇒ Speak against God.
 - ⇒ Don't respect parents.
 - ⇒ Aren't thankful.
 - ⇒ Don't care about important things like serving God.
 - ⇒ Don't love their family.
 - ⇒ Don't keep their word.
 - ⇒ Tell bad things about other people.
 - ⇒ Don't control themselves.
 - ⇒ Act like wild animals hurting and killing people.
 - ⇒ Don't like people who try to be good.
 - ⇒ They betray others.
 - ⇒ They don't think anything through, but act wild and reckless.
 - ⇒ They are filled pride.
 - ⇒ They care more about doing what pleases them than what pleases God.
 - ⇒ If they go to church, they don't really listen to God's Word or worship.
- When people live this way it is hard to get them to care about serving God. They don't want to come to church. They don't study the Bible. They don't like for other people to serve God.

We Are Blessed to Have God's Word

- We all make mistakes and no one is perfect, but God wants us to live a whole lot better than these terrible ways so many people live. That is part of the reason He gave us His Word.
- I know that when you hear how bad people can be, that you don't want your life to be that way. Those things we just heard about are true of people who don't have the Bible. They can own the Bible, but they don't have it in their lives. They don't let God's truth help them be better.

- You should be very glad to have parents who love you and want you to live right. Someone who studies the Bible with you and takes you to church. Paul said that Timothy had a mother and grandmother that had encouraged him to follow Jesus and had taught him God's Word since he was a little boy. That's why we study these Bible lessons together.
- Remember what Paul teaches us about the Bible.
 - ⇒ The Bible came from God, He inspired it.
 - ⇒ It provides the teaching we need.
 - ⇒ It is good for finding out what's really true.
 - ⇒ It will help show us how to change if we have done something wrong.
 - ⇒ It will train us to be righteous.
 - ⇒ It will supply us with everything we need to know to serve God.

We Have to Stay With God's Word After We Grow Up

- Sometimes children go to church and study the Bible when they are young, but when they grow up they quit caring about God. That is very sad.
- When we grow up, we will really need God even more. If we don't want to turn into one of those kind of people we were talking about earlier, then we will have to stay close to God's Word even after we get grown.
- Paul told Timothy to stay with the same things he had learned as a child, those Scriptures that his mother and grandmother had taught him.
- When you grow up some people will try to tell you things different from what God has taught us in the Bible. They will try to get us not to believe what God has plainly said. They will tell us we can do whatever we want and don't have to listen to God. When that happens, remember that you must keep following what God teaches and not let them lead you away from God. Remember that's what the Devil did to Adam and Eve.
- We have to follow God's Word "in season and out of season." "In season" means that there are times when many people care about God and His Word. "Out of season" means that there are other times when most people don't listen to God. But to be a faithful Christian, we must keep doing what God says both times, "in season and out of season."

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Difficult Times

3:1 But know this, that in the last days difficult and dangerous times will come.

2 Such times will be hard because of the characteristics you will see in many people:

The will only care about themselves and their own interests,

They will love money and be greedy.

They will be boasters that call attention to themselves,

They will overestimate their own worth and think of themselves as above others,

They will speak evil about others and even speak evil about God,

They will be unwilling to listen to their parents or obey them,

They will be people who show no gratitude, no thankfulness.

3 They will have no appreciation for things that are holy or sacred.
They will not have a natural, affectionate love that people should normally have for their own.
They cannot be counted on to fulfill obligations and agreements they have made.
They will freely make slanderous accusations against people.
They will lack the strength to control themselves.
They will be savage, fierce like a wild animal.
They will hate and despise things that are good.

4 They will betray others.
They will be rash and reckless.
They will be puffed up with pride.
They will love pleasure instead of loving God.

5 They will worship, but their worship will only seem to reverence God, because they really won't respect God's power.
So turn away from these.

Some People Reject the Truth

6 It's these kind of people who cover what they really are and creep into households. There they find small-minded women who are led on by all kind of different lusts, and they capture such women with their false ideas.

7 Such people are always in the process of learning, but they never come to a knowledge of the truth.

8 Just like the Egyptian magicians, Jannes and Jambres, resisted Moses, these kind of people will also resist the truth. Such people have corrupted minds. As far as the faith is concerned, these people are not acceptable.

9 But they can't keep going on for long because their foolishness will become clear to everyone, just like it became clear the Egyptian magicians were no match for God's power.

God's People Must Follow the Truth

10 But you have followed my teaching, my way of living, what I've shown you, my faith, my steadfastness, my love, and my endurance.

11 Persecution and suffering came on me at Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. What persecutions I endured, and the Lord rescued me out of all of them.

12 But everyone who lives godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

13 But evil people and those who cry out their deceptions will get even worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But you continue on in the things you have learned and believed, realizing who you hear those things from.

Learning the Scripture From Childhood

15 And that every since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for proving what is true, for correcting and restoring, for training in righteousness to completely furnish the people of God for all good works.

Always Stay True to God's Word

4:1-2 I solemnly testify before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at His appearance and His kingdom, preach the Word. Stand by it when the season is good and when it is out of season. Correct, warn, and exhort everyone, patiently teaching them.

3-4 There will be a time when sound teaching won't be upheld. Wanting their ears tickled, teachers will be gathered according to their own desires. They will turn away their ears from the truth and turn aside to myths.

5 Be sober and watchful in everything. Endure hardships. Do the work of an evangelist, fulfilling your service.

Paul Warns Titus to Warn the People

Titus 1:10 There are many who will not subject themselves to the truth. People who speak empty, worthless, deceitful things. This is especially true of the Jews.

11 We must put a stop to their mouths because they are overturning whole households teaching things they should not be teaching. And they do this out of their filthy desires to gain money from people.

12 One of them, one of their own prophets, described them by saying, "Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, lazing people who always eat too much."

13 What he said about that is true so warn them sharply so they will be healthy in the faith.

14 Tell them not to pay any attention to Jewish fables and commands that come from men, especially those that turn people away from the truth.

15 When people are pure minded and living pure lives, everything is certainly pure. But to those who are unbelieving and whose lives are polluted by sin, nothing is pure. But even their minds and consciences are polluted.

16 They claim to know God, but their works deny it because they are detestable (like a sickening smell) and they won't be persuaded by the truth. As far as having God's approval, not one of their works will stand the test.