

Dr. Oscar T. Moses
Calvary Baptist Church
W.A.R. Bible Study
Tuesday, March 31, 2020

“The COVID 19 Pandemic & The Urgency of Now”

2 Timothy 3:1-2

The goal in this lesson is to educate the CBC membership on biblical truth concerning the worlds behavior towards Christians and God’s expectations for the church in the last days.

Context

2 Timothy is a more personable letter from Paul than **1 Timothy**. **1 Timothy** was composed to give Timothy a basic description of the function and leadership guidelines for a pastor. It was written to reflect their *professional relationship*. **2 Timothy** was written in a more amiable manner. Paul, the aged apostle, longed to see Timothy before his death. The contents within **2 Timothy** was more reflective of their *personal relationship*. It was written to encourage the young pastor mingled with parting advice on conduct and what to expect in ministry.

One of the striking features of **2 Timothy Chapter 1** is the theme of *generational faithfulness*. Paul reminded Timothy of the faith that lived in his grandmother, his mother, and then in Timothy himself. Paul seems to communicate the urgent matter of passing our faith on to each generation that our children’s children may continue to develop in the faith. This progression suggests that the faithful witness of fathers and mothers should be the means God uses to bring children to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In **2 Timothy Chapter 2** Paul counseled Timothy with a number of exhortations that could directly apply to maintaining Godly conversation. Paul repeatedly warned Timothy to avoid certain conversation in (2 Tim. 2:14), “profane chatter” (2 Tim. 2:16), and “vain controversies” (2 Tim. 2:23). Chapter 2 was a prompt for Christians in the work place. The idea is; *not all talk at the copier or water cooler is beneficial*. Useless conversations can spread like an infectious disease (2 Tim. 2:17), lead to ruin and wickedness (2 Tim. 2:14, 16), and start confusion (2 Tim. 2:23).

In **2 Timothy Chapter 3** Paul addressed the “*Urgency of Now*” and Christians taking their position within the Kingdom of God on earth. **2 Timothy 4**, the last chapter, is Paul’s charge to Timothy and his final farewell. Paul reflected on his own ministry and found comfort in his personal pilgrimage of faith; **2 Timothy 4:6-8** - “*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*”

This chapter is clear of its message: “The last days will be difficult and dangerous for those who call themselves Christian.” The New Testament is consistent that we are living in the last days.

- **Acts 2:17** (KJV) - And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:
- **Hebrews 1:1-3** (KJV) - God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **2 Peter 3:3** (KJV) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

This passage speaks of the great moral degeneration that is occurring in the world today.

Observe the Text

- 1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.* What does the word *perilous* mean? The word *perilous* means *difficult and dangerous*.
- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
 - Lovers of their own selves - Selfish, serious of their own interest, and regardless of the welfare of all mankind.
 - Covetous - Lovers of money, because of the influence money can buy.
 - Boasters - Vain glorious: self-assuming; valuing themselves above all others.
 - Proud - Nonchalant, arrogant, (It's all about them) trivial persons; those who love to make a show—who are all out to make a show.
 - Blasphemers - Those who speak irreverently of God and sacred things, and injuriously of men.
 - Disobedient to parents - Headstrong children, whom their parents cannot persuade.
 - Unthankful - Persons without grace, or gratefulness; who think they have a right to the services of all men, yet feel no obligation, and consequently no gratitude.
 - Unholy - Without piety; having no heart reverence for God.

Each sign that is given in these verses are specifically pointing to people we encounter today.

Make It Plain

Small Group Questions

1. How has COVID 19 Pandemic brought out these personality traits in people?
2. How would you describe the state of the (Universal) Church of Jesus Christ today?
3. Why is the church so divided on so many issues?
4. How should the church respond to the “last days?”
5. What do you think the church will look like in 25 years?
6. How can the church prepare to respond to moral corruptness in the world in these last days?
7. Why is it so difficult to stand on what is biblically right?
8. How can parents do a better job of spiritually preparing their children for the world as it declines morally?
9. Name 3 things every church should do to prepare for greater persecution from the world.

Final Thoughts

Christians need to be prepared for the difficulty and misery associated with these last days. Paul later warns, “Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tim. 3:12).