**ECCLESIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

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**BIBLE STUDY LESSON**

**September 15, 2021**

Text

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**The Behavior and the Character of the Last Day Society**

**OBJECTIVE IN STUDYING THIS LESSON**

To learn about the moral decline that will occur in the last days

**LESSON SCRIPTURES: II Timothy 3:1-9; I Timothy 4:1-3; Matthew 24: 9-14; II Peter 2:1-12**

**II Timothy 3:1-9 - (New Living Translation) The Dangers of the Last Days**

**3**You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. **2**For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. **3**They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. **4**They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. **5**They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! **6**They are the kind who work their way into people’s homes and win the confidence of[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20timothy%203&version=NLT#fen-NLT-29820a)] vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. **7**(Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.) **8**These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. **9**But they won’t get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes and Jambres.

**I Timothy 4:1-3 (New Living Translation) - Warnings against False Teachers**

**4**Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. **2**These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+timothy4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-29710a)] **3**They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth.

**Matthew 24: 9-14 (New Living Translation) - Jesus Speaks about the Future**

**9**“Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24&version=NLT#fen-NLT-23940b)] **10**And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. **11**And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. **12**Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. **13**But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14**And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24&version=NLT#fen-NLT-23945c)] will hear it; and then the end will come.

### II Peter 2:1-12 (New International Version) - False Teachers and Their Destruction

### 2 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.4For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%202%3A1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30505a)] putting them in chains of darkness[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%202%3A1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30505b)] to be held for judgment; 5if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. 10This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%202%3A1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30511c)] and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; 11yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%202%3A1-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30512d)] the Lord. 12But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.

**INTRODUCTION**

From exhortations to steadfast service in the first two chapters, Paul now proceeds to offer exhortations to sound doctrine in this chapter and into the next. **He warns of perilous times to come in the last days, describing the condition of the people during these times.** Such people Timothy was to turn away from, for they would be just like Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses in the Old Testament (1-9).

Reminding Timothy of how he had carefully followed Paul’s doctrine and manner of life up to that point, Paul warns of the persecution to befall those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus. While evil men and impostors will grow worse and deceive many (being deceived themselves), Timothy is exhorted to continue in those things he has learned. Paul has special reference to the Scriptures Timothy had known since childhood, which like all Scripture is inspired of God and has the value of making one wise for the salvation, which is by faith in Christ, instructing one in such a way as to make him complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work (10-17).

**PERILOUS TIMES TO COME (1-9)**

**Perilous: Full of danger or risk**

In **2 Timothy chapter 3**, the Bible says that in the last days, perilous times will come. We are living in perilous times. In addition to the virus we have wars, other diseases, strong storms, earthquakes, civil unrest, etc. This is a dangerous world.

**A. A DESCRIPTION OF THESE PERILOUS TIMES (1-5a)**

1. They will come in the last days

2. There will be perilous times because of the condition of men (2-5a)

a. Lovers of themselves, lovers of money

b. Boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents

c. Unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving

d. Slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good

e. Traitors, headstrong, haughty

f. Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

g. Having a form of godliness but denying its power

In a nutshell, during these perilous times men will love three things: Themselves, money, and pleasure.

**B. REASONS TO TURN AWAY FROM SUCH PERILOUS PEOPLE (5b-9)**

1. A warning to turn away from such people (5b)

2. Reasons to do so (6-9)

a. For such lead gullible people astray

b. For such are always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth

c. Just like Jannes and Jambres who resisted Moses...

1) These resist the truth

2) They are men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the

faith

3) They will not progress, and their folly will become manifest to all.

Lesson adapted from Mark A. Copeland and Creflo Dollar Ministries Bible Studies.