

February 18, 2018

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Facing Perilous Times

Look up the word **perilous**. Write the definition:

Have you ever faced perilous times? If you live in a coastal area and a major hurricane heads your way, you face peril and danger. If you are wise, you follow the advice of the experts. They might advise you to stock up on candles, flashlight batteries, food, and water. They might tell you to board up your windows, or even evacuate your home. When danger comes, the smartest thing to do is obey the instructions of the experts.

Years ago, the experts warned people who lived on or near Mt. St. Helens that they were facing great danger. They told them to evacuate, but one man refused. Sure enough, the mountain erupted and the man died. Paul warned Timothy that perilous times were coming and told him how to face those perilous days.

2 Tim. 3:1 When will perilous times come?

The Bible uses the term **last days** to refer to the entire span of time from the first coming of Jesus Christ to His second coming. Technically, then, we are living in the last times; but we usually think of the last days being those immediately preceding Christ's return. Verses 2-5 describe the people living in the last days.

2 Tim. 3:2 How are people living in the last days described?

2 Tim. 3:3 More descriptions of people living in the last days:

2 Tim. 3:4 What do they love more than God?

2 Tim. 3:5 What do they have a form (imitation) of?

What do they deny?

How should we relate to them?

Look back over those descriptions. Do they describe people today? Verses 6-8 tell us what these people do.

2 Tim. 3:6 Who do they cunningly lead astray?

2 Tim. 3:7 What do these people and their victims do?

They refuse to accept straightforward answers from the Bible, so they never learn the truth.

2 Tim. 3:8 Jewish tradition said that Jannes and Jambres were Pharaoh's magicians who used demonic power to imitate several of the plagues God sent upon Egypt (see **Ex. 7:11, 22; 8:7, 18-19; 9:11**). How are the people of the last days like them?

2 Tim. 3:9 What will happen to these people?

2 Tim. 3:10-11 What did Timothy fully know?

2 Tim. 3:12 "Yea, and _____ that will live _____ in Christ Jesus _____ suffer _____."

2 Tim. 3:13 Are people getting better or worse?

Verses 14-17 tell us **HOW** to face perilous times.

2 Tim. 3:14 What should we continue in?

Why should we stick with the truth?

2 Tim. 3:15 What does the Bible teach us?

2 Tim. 3:16 Where did the Bible come from?

What is it profitable for?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The Bible is useful to teach us what is right (**doctrine**), tell us when we're wrong (**reproof**), correct us and get us back on the right path (**correction**), and then teach us how to stay on that right path (**instruction in righteousness**).

2 Tim. 3:17 What is the result of studying the Bible?

Concluding Thoughts: Just as emergency personnel knock on doors and warn people to flee an oncoming flood or hurricane, the Lord is speaking directly to you today through the Bible. You can ignore His warnings, but you will pay a price for being foolish.

We are living in perilous times. Evil people and seducers are getting worse and worse, and they are deceiving others into following their wicked example. How can we face perilous times?

1. **Turn away** from ungodly people (v. 5)
2. **Follow** godly examples (v. 10-11)
3. **Stick** with the Bible truth that you know (v. 14-15)
4. **Study the Bible**, which will make you mature (v. 16-17)

Follow that advice today, before you are swept away with the world's raging floods of ungodliness. Is there someone you need to turn away from? Whose example should you follow?

What Bible truths (that you already know) are you ignoring and neglecting? Do you have a daily time to read and study the Bible?

Project: Memorize **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. Turn away from wickedness and spend more time in God's Word this week.