

REMEMBER MY EXAMPLE (II Timothy 3:10-15)

This being the last letter he wrote before his martyrdom, Paul began to look back over his life by describing the endurance set by he himself. Following the example of Jesus, He endured unto the end.

The examples of the persecutions which Paul endured were all taken from the apostle's first missionary journey and in the area of Asia Minor, where Timothy had made his home. Barclay observes that " it may well be a proof of Timothy's courage and consecration that he had seen very clearly what could and did happen to an apostle, and yet not hesitate to cast his lot with Paul. ¹

The apostle Paul does not fail to give God the credit, saying, "What persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me (II Timothy 3:11)."

1. The apostle is convinced that there is no easy road for the children of God. What does he say in II Timothy 3:12 that confirms this statement?

2. What does Paul prophesy about evil men and seducers in II Timothy 3:13? _____

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Vol. 9, p.650.

THIRD STUDY

EVIL CHARACTERS IN THE LAST DAYS

PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME (II Timothy 3:1-9)

Up to this point Paul has been dealing with the demands imposed upon Timothy by his task as a pastor. But now in prophetic spirit he turns to the society which surrounds the infant Church and discovers in it factors which could exert a tragic influence upon God's people. **This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come** (1). The expression **the last days** refers usually to the period at the end of the present age and immediately preceding the return of Christ; and there is no reason to believe that the apostle had anything other than this in mind. Paul believed in the nearness of Christ's return, even though he would not himself live to see it. ¹

Paul calls this time **perilous**.

1. Give a list of the sinful attitudes which will characterize these perilous times. (II Timothy 3:2-4) _____

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 647.

These sins, common in the first century, are flourishing also in alarming measures today. ¹

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. II Timothy 3:5. They have a form of our religion, but deny the power of the Gospel story of what Jesus did. Such were the Ephesian errorists who outwardly make a great display of Christianity, but inwardly they are not Christians at all. Paul suggests to Timothy here, that these warning signs are present in their time. We know they exist today. They believe in abortion, homosexual marriage, and even allow homosexual men and women to be priests and ministers in their churches, which is clearly against the teachings of the Scriptures.

But the most deadly of these (their ways) is simply the willingness to live day by day without the presence of God's power in one's religious life.

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For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (6-7). The apostle would seem here to have changed the

tense from the future to the present and to be addressing the situation Timothy is facing in Ephesus. The subtle methods employed by such depraved persons is suggested by the expression **creep into**, which may be rendered "worm their way into."

Silly women is translated "weak women" in the RSV. Such persons are easily seduced and led into a multiplicity of sins. Paul "has just a little sympathy for the dissolute (immoral) women who cultivate religion along with their other excitements as he has for the dishonest teachers who prey upon them." ¹

2. (a) Give the names of the 2 men who withstood Moses and resisted the truth. (II Timothy 3:8)

(b) How does Paul describe all those that resist the truth, in II Timothy? _____

(c) What future does Paul announce upon these men? (II Timothy 3:9) _____

The two men here named were among Pharaoh's magicians who attempted to duplicate the wonderful works of God and thus **withstood Moses** (Exod. 7:11; 9:11). Their names are not given in the Exodus account but appear in Jewish tradition.

¹

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 647
2. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 648.

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