

2 TIMOTHY VERSE BY VERSE

Session 7 | 2 Timothy 3:1-7

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 | FUTURE PERILOUS TIMES

- Verse 1 –
 - Paul changes the topic from *the perils that are* in verses 22-26 of the previous chapter to *the perils to come* in verses 1-7.
 - I have kept these in black letters, because *right division* recognizes that we are raptured before the tribulation. It is perfectly in order for Paul to leave information about the tribulation since his beloved nation will endure these years.
 - The phrase **last days** must be taken as *eschatological days* rather than *last days of the church*.
 - The end of the church age is totally unannounced and unpredictable.
 - Furthermore, allowing scripture to interpret itself leads only to one conclusion: the **last days** are the tribulation.
- Verse 2 –
 - This is the first of six verses that gives a “laundry list” of the human reasons that **perilous times shall come** (v. 1). The book of Revelation tells about the *physical events*, but these verses tell about the *sociological environment* of the last days.
 - What follows, for each verse, is a short description of the condition described.
 - **Lovers of their own selves** - φίλαυτος [philautos] - translated literally, with no explanation, and nowhere else used in the New Testament.
 - **Covetous** - literally, *lovers of silver*. φιλάργυρος [phylarguros].
 - **Boasters** - Those who promise more than they can deliver.
 - **Proud** - υπερήφανος [hyperpainos], a *hyper-shining*.
 - **Blasphemers** - transliterated from Greek and made an English word. Literally “harmful fame.”
 - **Disobedient to parents** - ἀπειθής [apeithes], from which we get *apathy* toward parents.
 - **Unthankful** - ἀχάριστος [acharistos], literally, “having no grace/thanks/joy.”
 - **Unholy** - ἀνόσιος [anosios] - the negation of being undefiled by sin.
- Verse 3 –
 - **Without natural affection** - ἄστοργος [astorgos] - the word is used in Romans 1:31 where the KJV translators placed the marginal note “unsociable.” The word has the negator (a) along with *stergo*, to cherish or have affection. The last days will be days in which men are *hardhearted and cold*. Note that the word has nothing to do with a person’s sexuality.
 - **Trucebreakers** - the word ἄσπονδος [aspondos] is, in etymology, “the negation of that for which a blood-covenant has been made.”
 - **False accusers** - the adjective form of διάβολος [diablos], thus “devilish” or “accusative.” The word *diablos* is a compound of *dia* (thoroughly) and *ballos* (thrown), reminding us of the devil’s origins and fall.

- **Incontinent** - ἀκρατής [akretes], the root *kratos* is *power/control*, with the negator (*a*). Rather than a *demokratos* there will be an abundance of *akratos*, men who are “uncontrollable.”
 - **Fierce** - The Greek etymology literally means “not lame,” but the meaning is “not tame” or “savage.”
 - **Despisers of those that are good** - ἀφιλάγαθος [aphilagathos] - the negator (*a*) of *the love of good*.
- Verse 4 –
 - **Traitors** - προδότης [prodotes] is “moving toward giving.” The word is used in First Century Greek texts in reference to “Judas, the betrayer.”
 - **Heady** - προπετής [propetes] is “moving toward a fall” in its etymology. It is a word-picture of someone who is “headlong” or “rash.”
 - **Highminded** - τυφώω [typhoo], from which we get *typhoon*. It carries the idea of “lots of hot air.”
 - **Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God** - φιλήδονος [philedonos] versus φιλόθεος [philotheos]. The root *edone* is “pleasure.”
- Verse 5 –
 - **Having a form of godliness...** For **form** Paul uses μόρφωσις [morphosis], as one who *morphs* into someone *godly*, but at the same time is **denying the power thereof**.
 - Paul then gives a parenthetical note, **from such turn away**. That the end of verse 5 going through verse 6 is parenthetical is seen by the use of the *present active imperative* of the verb **turn away**. The verbs in verses 1 and 2 are *future* tense, while this is *present*.
- Verse 6 –
 - Continuing his parenthetical note for the present audience, he speaks further of those who have *fake godliness*, saying that these kinds of men **lead captive silly women** who are themselves **laden with sins, led away with divers lusts**.
 - We do not know whether Paul had specific men in mind (as in 2:17) or just knew that such women are attracted to **a form of godliness** that isn’t actually godly.
- Verse 7 –
 - Paul concludes his list (interrupted in verse 5) with his final attribute of the men of the last days, saying they are **ever learning yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth**.
 - This is a natural outcome of the removal of God from the scientific method. See *Scientific Worldviews* in *Worldviews Graphically Presented* by Randy White, in which *atheistic science* is compared to *theistic science*.
 - Since the rise of *atheistic science* our world has been in a similar situation as described in this verse.
 - Note on verses 1-7 - this list of the *human characteristics* of the tribulation add greatly to our understanding of the impact of the *physical events* of the tribulation. The **last days** will be **perilous times** (v. 1) indeed. Can you even begin to imagine the horror of living in a world like this?