

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Vs 1 Since the time of Jesus and probably before, man has always seen himself in the last days, but they officially began with Pentecost. Joel's prophecy quoted by Peter as being fulfilled at Pentecost says, "In the last days...". God is patient and full of grace not willing that any should perish, and they have lasted two thousand years so far. Yet, here, Paul who saw himself in the last days also wrote of a future time, shall we say 'the end of the last days' and continues with a description of man as he turns his back to God and glorifies self, terrible times indeed! This is written in future tense.

Vs 2 "Lovers of themselves" certainly in Paul's day there were such people, but this must be in the extreme sense. I think we are being numbed to this type of character. Imagine for a moment a person whose motivation is entirely self. What does it mean to this type of person to take a life? What would it matter if he or she destroyed mankind if it meant fulfillment of some self-gratification? Only consequences of social laws prevents them out of fear of consequences.

"Lovers of money" NIV or "covetous" KJV 1Tim 6:10 says this is the root of all evil. Jesus said you have to decide whether you will serve God or money. The love of money has enslaved a large part of the American population. Because they take a two week vacation once a year they believe they are not worshipping money. How can you tell if you've fallen into the trap? Which one is more important to you? Which do you choose when the decision means one or the other?

Boastful – to exalt the self that is most loved. The opposite of humility. Putting self forward as an object to be praised and adored. Reaching for the worship of others.

Proud – They believe their own propaganda. Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Pride cannot learn, for it believes it already knows. Pride does not need God, it is self sufficient.

Abusive – How dare any one offend your exalted royal personage! If anyone is in your way, since you are the only one of value, walk all over them! They use people to get what they desire. Venting their rage on others is normal for it makes them feel superior.

Disobedient to parents – No respect for the sacrifices and position of respect they deserve because after all – they were lucky to have a kid like you. All blame for any problems or short comings can be blamed on them.

Ungrateful – They deserve all they receive and more. The world owes them because they are so special. When they receive it is as it should be, for everything exists for them.

Unholy – Unholy seems odd here as if it went without saying, but an unseparated life is one absorbed by the world so it has all the conditions of 1Jn 2:15-17.

Vs 3 Without love – love is unselfish and they are entirely selfish. Unforgiving –once you offend them there is no restoration, you are their enemy. Slandrous – They will accuse you and others of the things they are guilty of, with no fear of justice. Because they have no love,

they slander freely, doing damage to the reputation of innocent people. Why should they care? Without self-control – They do whatever they please whenever they please and they can't stop themselves even if they know it is destroying them. Brutal – violence is no big deal for life of others has value only as it serves them. Not lovers of the good – for God is good. Good often requires a sacrifice. That is unacceptable to them.

Vs 4 Treacherous – you never know where they are coming from. The guise of friendship is so they can use or abuse you for their gain. Rash NIV or headstrong NKJV they know what they want and will not compromise, doing anything to get it. Conceited – They are the only ones who are right, who have the answers, who are worth anything. It is all about ME! Lovers of pleasure rather than God– what ever pleases the senses is what they will choose. Right and wrong, good and evil, life and death, health or destruction are not the things that matter, just pleasure for the moment. There is a contrast here, "rather than God". The opposite of all these things is the fruit of the Spirit. Paul is describing carnal man unrestrained. Look back over the list and consider the opposites.

Vs 5 A form of godliness – there is an appearance but it is all show. Their life is not changed by the power. The power of the Gospel is new life. They live in the old nature and say you can't be changed. There is outward religious action, but no change of heart. They will go through the rituals but don't let the living God interfere with their routine. "Have nothing to do with them." Hypocrites who act religious but are given over to the sinful nature should not have a place in our congregations. I believe Paul is speaking again of the false leaders and the ones that would come in the future. These self-lovers can't see themselves in any position but first. They cannot listen to counsel or hear the opinions of others. They should be separated from the congregation and barred from fellowship. Their words spread a poison Paul likened to gangrene.

Vs 6 Here is further description. I have seen this acted out to the letter. They know the profile and they take advantage of it.

Vs 7 They keep studying and are full of quotes and information because it feeds their egos, but they never find conviction and repentance. When presented with the truth they are unphased. Everyone is wrong but them.

Vs 8 Jannes and Jambres were the magicians that opposed Moses in the court of Pharaoh. They imitate miracles and claim that what is of God is within the power of man. But they can deny the power only so long. See Ex 8:18
They are opposed to all that is good but especially men of God that are in stark contrast to them, just as these false teachers turned people from Paul. As far as faith is concerned – these guys are rejects. Paul didn't say pray for them or try to help them, he says, have nothing to do with them.

Vs 9 They won't get far. A promise that all will see their folly in time is an encouraging word. Just as they could not imitate Moses so the false teachers cannot live the life of a godly person and their sins begin to be revealed in time.