

2 Timothy 3:1-5
Comprehend the Godward Perspective of Humanity

Introduction: Here we are confronted with the religious and moral decay in our culture and in our churches. This accurately describes professing, but not genuine, Christians.

- 1) **Timothy/we needs to obey a solemn warning—3:1** ¹ *But realize* [pres. act. impv. ginw,skw] *this*,
 - a) *that in the last days difficult/dangerous, hard to deal with times will come.*
 - i) Cf. 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 3:3; 1 John 2:18
 - ii) These days began with the first coming of Christ and will conclude with His second coming.

- 2) **Timothy/we needs to trust in God's perfect knowledge of the future—3:2-4** ² *For people will be ...*
 - Paul, by the Spirit of God, lists 19 things; similar to the list in Rom. 1. They are described from the inside out. None of these are unique to the end times, but they do increase in scope and intensity as time progresses.
 - a) First: a pair of self-absorbed affections
 - i) The fountainhead: *self-lovers* [fi,lautoj], self-centeredness, selfward thinking
(1) Cf. 2 Cor. 5:15; Phil. 2:21
 - ii) *money-lovers* [fila,rguroj],
(1) Cf. 1 Tim. 6:10
 - b) Second: a trio of arrogance
 - i) *braggarts* [avlazw,n], self-magnifying, self-impressed
 - ii) *arrogant* [u`perhfa,noj], self-elevating
(1) God opposed them (cf. James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5)
 - iii) *verbally abusive* [bla,sfhmoj],
 - c) Third: a set of negatives
 - i) *disobedient* [avpeiqh,j] *to parents*, they refuse to be persuaded because they think they know better than their parents, rebellious
 - ii) *ungrateful* [avca,ristoj], refuse to acknowledge dependence on God's goodness, an attitude of entitlement
 - iii) *irreverent/unholy* [avno,sioj], refuse to respect and to conform to God's standard
 - iv) ³ *unloving toward family* [a;storgoj], primarily parent to child love, abortion, infanticide
 - v) *irreconcilable* [a;spondoj], not willing to negotiate a truce
 - d) Fourth: the center: *slanderers* [dia,boloj], false accusers, malicious gossips
 - e) Fifth: a trio of negatives
 - i) *without self-control* [avkrath,j], no power over self, no ability to rule over self

- ii) *savage* [avnh,meroj], untamed, uncivilized
- iii) *not loving what is good* [avfila,gaqoj],
- f) Sixth: a trio of dangers
 - i) ⁴ *betrayers/traitors* [prodo,thj], willing to destroy interpersonal relationships for self-interest
 - ii) *reckless* [propeth,j], impulsive, taking wild chances, getting carried away
 - iii) *conceited* [tetufwme,noj], clouded with self-importance
- g) Seventh: a contrast of affections
 - i) *pleasure-lovers* [filh,donoj]
 - ii) *rather than God-lovers* [filo,qeoj], those who put self in the place of God as the center of their affections. (Earle)
 - iii) They are ruled by their glands and hormones, unable to consistently choose delayed gratification which leads to wisdom. (Kitchen)
- h) Summary: ⁵ *maintaining an outward form/appearance, resemblance* [mo,rfsij] *of godliness/reverence* [euvse,beia]
 - i) *but denying/the outer act of an inner decision* [pf. mid. ptc. avrne,omai] *its power* [du,namij].

3) Timothy/we needs to avoid being entangled with some people—3:5 *Steer* (yourself) *clear* [pres. mid. impv. avpotre,pw] *of these people,*

- a) This doesn't mean we can avoid all people all the time. It is probably a reference to church discipline.
- b) Stop letting such people ruin you, your lifestyle, and your church.

4) Things we need to remember:

- a) All genuine believers have such a background (1 Cor. 6:9-11), but in Christ we are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
- b) All genuine believers have such a struggle against sin, but in Christ we can experience a spiritual metamorphosis by being renewed in the spirit of our minds (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:17)

2 Timothy 3:6-9
Maintain A Godward Perspective of False Teachers

Introduction:

- 1) **Timothy needs to obey God's command: What?—3:5** *Steer clear* [pres. mid. impv. avpotre,pw] *of these people*,
 - a) This doesn't mean we can avoid all people all the time. It is probably a reference to church discipline.
 - b) Stop letting such people ruin you, your lifestyle, and your church.

- 2) **Timothy needs to understand the danger of false teachers: Why?—3:6-7** ⁶ *because* [ga,r] *from* [evk] *these* (cf. 3:1-5) *are those ...*
 - a) They are insidious worms—*who are inserting themselves* [pres. act. ptc. evndu,nw] *into households*
 - i) They scout broader Christianity trying to spot vulnerable women.
 - ii) They often attack when the husband is away. (cf. Gen. 3)
 - b) They are insensitive predators—*and taking captive* [pres. act. ptc. aivcmalwteu,w] *impressionable women* [gunaika,rion]
 - Their spiritual victims are characterized by 4 things:
 - i) Overwhelmed by guilt: *who are overloaded* [pf. pass. ptc. swreu,w] *with sins*,
 - ii) Vulnerable because of impulses: *being led along by* [pres. pass. ptc. agw] *variegated desires* [evpiqumi,a],
 - iii) Insatiably intrigued: ⁷ *always learning* [pres. act. ptc. manqa,nw]
 - (1) This is curiosity that never matures into conviction
 - iv) Incapable: *yet never able* [pres. dep. ptc. du,namai] *to arrive at the full knowledge* [evpi,gnwsij] *of the truth/reality*.
 - (1) Because they do not know Him who is Truth (John 14:6)

- 3) **Timothy needs to recognize spiritual counterfeits: Who?—3:8-9** ⁸ *Now ...*
 - a) **Historic** reality, it has happened before—*just as Jannes and Jambres opposed* [avnqi,sthmi] *Moses*,
 - b) **Present** reality, they oppose reality—*in this way these also oppose* [pres. mid. ind. avnqi,sthmi] *the truth/reality*,
 - i) Mentally, they are corrupt: *people whose minds* [nou/j] *are corrupted* [pf. pass. ptc. katafqi,rw],
 - (1) So morally perverted as to be ruined or destroyed. They can not perceive or understand reality.
 - ii) Spiritually, they are not to be trusted: *disapproved* [avdo,kimoj] (by God) *concerning the faith/doctrine*;
 - (1) Because they resist reality, they are rejected
 - c) **Future** reality, they will not get far—⁹ *but* [avlla,] *they will not make further progress*

- i) Their guaranteed exposure: *because* [ga,r] *their foolishness* [a;noia] *will be made obvious* [e;kdhloj] *to everyone* (by God),
(1) Unable to reproduce God's miracles (cf. Ex. 8:18-19)
- ii) Their historical example: *just as theirs* (Jannes and Jambres) *also came to be*.

4) Things we need to remember:

- a) There is genuine danger in doing nothing about false teaching. False tolerance that fails to take charge and confront the false teaching that threatens the spiritual well-being of the church would be deadly.
(Kostenberger)
- b) The certainty of eventual divine judgment and of the second appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ requires that lines be drawn sharply even in the present so that the choice between the gospel of grace and salvation in Jesus Christ and the alternatives of false teachings are presented in mutually exclusive terms.
(Kostenberger)

2 Timothy 3:10-12
The Importance of Godward Encouragement

Introduction:

- 1) **Paul shows Timothy an encouraging contrast—3:10** ¹⁰ *But you* (emphatic) (in contrast not only to Jannes and Jambres, but also to all the people in 3:2-9),
 - a) Paul sees Timothy as standing firm; he is not yielding to the temptation whereas the false teachers are resisting the truth (3:8).

- 2) **Paul tells Timothy what he has observed—3:10b-11a** *have followed* [pf. act. ind. parakolouqe,w] *my ...*
 - Like a disciple with his master, Timothy came to own these 9 things (which stand in contrast to the 19 things in 3:2-5) for himself over the 17-18 years he has known Paul since Acts 16.
 - a) **Focus on MINISTRY**
 - i) Content: *teaching*, [didaskali,a] (cf. 2:2)
 - (1) Not just orthodox content, but also determined commitment
 - ii) Conduct: *way of life*, [avgwgh,]
 - iii) Commitment/guiding motive/my set aim: *purpose*, [pro,qesij]
 - b) **Focus on RELATIONSHIPS** with God and people (cf. Gal. 5:22)
 - i) Trust in and loyalty to God: *faith*, [pi,stij]
 - ii) Restraint toward others: *patience*, [makroqumi,a]
 - iii) Affection: *love*, [avgaph,]
 - c) **Focus on difficult EVENTS** (note the shift to plurals for the last 2; the last 2 are concrete examples of endurance)
 - i) Steadfast courage: *endurance*, [u`pomoh,]
 - ii) Systematic, specific harassments: ¹¹ *persecutions*, [diwgm0,j]
 - iii) Sufferings in general: *sufferings* [pa,qhma] *which happened to me ...*,
 - (1) *in Antioch, in Iconium, in Lystra*, (cf. Acts 13-14)
 - (2) Timothy may have been an eyewitness to these things, including: mob action, public verbal and physical abuse
 - d) Paul is saying that Timothy IS ready, even if Timothy does not think he is.

- 3) **Paul explains to Timothy the results of his own experience—3:11b**
 - a) **Endurance**: *what persecutions* [diwgm0,j] *I endured* [u`pofe,rw],
 - i) Cf. 1 Cor. 10:13
 - ii) Cf. 1 Pet. 2:19
 - b) **Rescue**: *and out of* [evk]/not “kept from” *them all the Lord rescued* [r`u,omai] *me*.
 - i) Cf. 2 Tim. 4:17—in the present
 - ii) Cf. 2 Tim. 4:18—in the future the rescue will be away from them

- 4) Paul teaches Timothy the important principle—3:12** ¹² *In fact,*
- a) **The act of the will rooted in desire:** *all who are intending* [pres. act. ptc. qe,lw] *to live* [za,w] *godly* [euvsebw/j] *in Christ Jesus*
 - i) Not just those who are taking over for the apostle Paul. You can't avoid persecution by simply avoiding the position of apostolic delegate.
 - ii) Godliness exposes the wickedness of others. Sometimes, instead of repenting and turning to Christ, they attack the one who has exposed them for what they really are. (MacDonald)
 - b) **The promise:** *will be persecuted* [fut. pass. ind. diw,kw]/face external opposition,
 - i) Cf. 1 Cor. 4:12—we put up with persecution
 - ii) Cf. 2 Cor. 4:9—we are not abandoned in our persecution
 - iii) Cf. Gal. 6:12—some professing Christians seek to avoid persecution
 - iv) Remember the following passages:
 - (1) Ps. 34:19; John 15:20; 16:33; Ac. 14:22; 1 John 3:13
 - (2) Phil. 1:29
 - c) Why does the world find genuine Christianity so offensive?
 - i) It teaches exclusive salvation, only through Christ.
 - ii) It teaches holiness, uncomfortable for the world, the flesh, and the devil
 - iii) It teaches hope, that the future promises are better than the present
 - iv) It teaches suffering, persecution from its enemies
- 5) Things we need to remember:**
- a) Here are some questions to ask when choosing a spiritual leader to follow:
 - i) What do they believe? What do they do? What do they live for? What will they risk? Who or what can rattle them? What do they treasure? What have they endured? What won't they negotiate? (John Kitchen)
 - b) Standing for truth and living for Christ comes with a price.

2 Timothy 3:13-15
Remembering Your Godward Heritage

Introduction:

1) Paul informs Timothy of the degeneration of his culture—3:13

- a) How does Paul describe these people
 - i) They are malignantly harmful to you and others: ¹³ *but evil/harmful* [ponhro,j] *people*
 - ii) They are not what they seductively claim to be: *and imposters* [go,hj]
(1) Just like Jannes and Jambres in 3:8.
- b) What does Paul say will happen to these people?
 - i) They won't get better with time: *will become worse*,
 - ii) This dispensation of Grace will end in apostasy. Sadly, people are not yet as evil as they will be. Thankfully, common grace restrains their sin.
- c) What will these people do?
 - i) Perpetrators, what they do to others: *deceiving* [pres. act. ptc. plana,w]
 - ii) Victims, what others do to them: *and being deceived* [pres. pass. ptc. plana,w].
(1) Even though they think they are so smart.

2) Paul reminds Timothy of the regeneration of his soul—3:14-15

- a) The **contrast** of loyalty: ¹⁴ *But you* (emphatic),
 - i) Cf. the contrasts in 3:10 and 4:5
 - ii) Instead of advancing in wickedness, Timothy must advance in godliness
- b) The **necessity** of loyalty: *must continue* [pres. act. impv. me,nw] *in* [evn] ...
 - Note the encouraging evaluation by Paul of Timothy's life.
 - i) Remember your past discipleship: *the things you have learned* [manqa,nw]
 - ii) Recognize your present persuasion: *and become convinced of* [pisto,w],
- c) The **development** of loyalty:
 - i) Remember the one who discipled you: *knowing from* [para,] *whom you learned* [manqa,nw],
 - (1) Majority Text reads singular "you", Critical Text reads plural "you"
 - (2) Remember 2 Tim. 2:2
 - ii) Remember the authority of God's Word; remember your earliest discipling by your mother and grandmother in the authoritative Word of God: ¹⁵ *and that from infancy* [bre,foj] *you have known the sacred writings* (the 22 (Hebrew number) /39 (LXX number) books of the Old Testament),
 - (1) Jewish boys began their education in the Torah at age 5. Children CAN learn and understand the Word of God.
 - (2) Timothy probably heard the Word of God read every week in the synagogue in his own language of Greek.
 - (3) Remember 2 Tim. 1:5

- iii) Remember the sufficiency of God's Word; remember the inherent, sufficient power of God's Word: *which* (sacred writings) *are able* [du,namai] *to make you wise* [sofi,zw] *for* [eivj] *salvation*
 - (1) This is one purpose of the Scriptures, but it is not the only purpose.
 - (a) People can get saved from God's wrath and from enslavement to sin by reading/hearing the Old Testament.
 - (2) This shows us that people in the OT could be saved.
- iv) Remember the proper object of faith: *through* [dia,] *faith which is in* [evn] *Christ Jesus*.
 - (1) Everyone has faith in something or someone, but few have genuine faith rooted in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Knowledge of the Word of God does not bring salvation; it must be actively depended on as the only source of Truth/Reality.

3) Things we need to remember:

- a) God's Word unleashed early in a child's life will not fail to have a lasting influence. (John Kitchen)
- b) When the winds of adversity, apostasy and heresy are blowing their hardest, when the shingles are blowing off the roof, when the values of a stable society have not only been blown away, but are replaced by sinful anarchistic alternatives, there IS a place to turn that will keep you rooted and grounded in the truth. (Jay Adams)

2 Timothy 3:16-17
Maintaining a Godward View of the Bible

Introduction:

- 1) **Paul shows a 2-fold emphasis of the Bible that we must trust: 3:16a** ¹⁶ *All* (each and every individual portion) *Scripture/writing* ... (cf. 3:15)
 - Applies to the written Word only
 - a) Emphasis on its Origin, and thus authoritative to us: *is* [understood verb] *God-breathed* [qeo,pneustoj] (“inspired” comes from the Latin *inspiro*)
 - i) Cf. 2 Pet. 1:20-21
 - ii) The writings, not the writers, are inspired.
 - iii) Pastor John Kitchen reminds us: God’s Word works in this world because it has its origin from outside this world.
 - b) Emphasis on its Purpose, and thus necessary for us: *and is profitable/advantageous, beneficial* [wvfe,limoj]
 - i) It is advantageous because it is God-breathed.
 - c) This applies to both Old and New Testaments (cf. 1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Pet. 3:14-16)

- 2) **Paul shows how the Bible is profitable in our lives: 3:16b**
 - a) What God says is **right** or what ought to be: *for teaching* [didaskali,a],
 - i) Instructing the ignorant, in both belief and behavior. (cf. Rom. 15:4)
 - ii) This is a clear understanding of what God requires.
 - b) What God says is **not right** or what ought not to be: *for reproof* [e;legcoj],
 - i) Exposing the guilty in attitude, action and belief.
 - ii) This is acknowledging that one has not met God’s requirements.
 - c) What God says about **how to get right**: *for correction* [evpano,rqwsij],
 - i) Restoring the fallen and those lead astray.
 - ii) This includes confession, forgiveness and righting the wrongs. To straighten that which has become twisted, to restore to its upright position.
 - iii) God’s Word doesn’t just knock you flat on your face. It also picks you up, dusts you off, gets you out of the trouble you brought on yourself and heads you in the right direction for the future. (Jay Adams)
 - d) **How to stay right** according to God’s standard: *for training* [paideia,a] *in righteousness* [dikaiousu,nh],
 - i) Disciplining the immature.
 - ii) These are the new ways that need to be habituated into one’s life in the future.

- 3) **Paul shows the goal of the Bible in our lives: 3:17** ¹⁷ *so that* [i[na] ...
 - a) Stated as an adjective: *the man of God may be* [pres. act. subj.] **competent/qualified** [a;rtioj] (emphatic),

- i) Having every necessary component to meet the demands one faces in ministry and life.
- b) Restated as a verb: *fully/completely equipped/qualified, proficient* [pf. pass. ptc. evxarti,zw] **for** (each and) ***every good work*** (emphatic).
 - i) Paul places a heavy burden of ministry on his young disciple in this letter, but he does not do so irresponsibly. Paul was confident of Timothy's commitment to and dependence on the Scriptures, but he was even more confident of God's ability to supply all Timothy's needs through the Word of God. (Duane Litfin)

4) Things we need to remember:

- a) Timothy (and by extension we also) will be fitted for his God-given task by the study of and submission to the Scriptures.
- b) Those who read, study, and obey Scripture will be ready for all good works, rather than being governed by the lies of false teaching and godless living that will typify the last days before Christ's return. (John Feinberg)