

## Love Letters

### Week 17: 2 Timothy 3

#### Read 2 Timothy 3

#### Perilous Times Ahead ~

The apostle Peter spoke of the last days saying,

“Therefore since all these things will be dissolved,

what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct &

godliness, looking for & hastening the coming of the day of God?” 2 Peter 3:11–12

1. Life will continue as it always has, but what does Paul say is coming (vs 1)? What do you think he means by this?

2. What ungodly characteristics will be evident as man’s character continues to digress on a downward spiral?

a. Vs 2:

b. Vs 3:

c. Vs 4:

3. What does Paul say we should do when encountering such individuals? (vs 5)

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#### Counterfeit Individuals ~

#### Reread 2 Timothy 3:6–9

Paul clearly had the false teachers in mind in vs 6-9. He likens them to being utterly corrupt. As far as the faith is concerned, they are “rejected after testing.” They cannot be trusted to teach the truth & they will not get far; their “folly” will be clearly visible soon.

1. What was their method of operation? (vs 6)

2. Whom were they targeting? Why were these individuals so vulnerable?

3. How does Paul compare these two men with the false teachers of his day? (vs 8-9)

a. What does Paul say regarding their faith?

b. Regarding their progress?

### **Opposition from Within ~**

Look closely again at 2 Timothy 3:8–9 (AMP):

“Now just as Jannes & Jambres were hostile to & resisted Moses,  
so these men also are hostile to & oppose the Truth.

They have depraved & distorted minds, are reprobate & counterfeit &  
to be rejected as far as the faith is concerned.”

1. The adjectives used to describe these men are listed below for you. Take a moment to look them up in your dictionary or cyclopedic index (located at the front of your Bible); briefly define each one in your own words. As you do, think about how detrimental their mindset is & how destructive they could potentially be.

a. Hostile \_\_\_\_\_

b. Oppose \_\_\_\_\_

c. Depraved \_\_\_\_\_

d. Distorted \_\_\_\_\_

e. Reprobate \_\_\_\_\_

f. Counterfeit \_\_\_\_\_

g. Using your definitions above, compose a brief sentence describing these false teachers.

2. Personal: Do you perhaps find that you have been led astray by false teaching? Have you allowed anyone or anything to come between the gospel & its power in your life? If so, would you take a moment now & ask the Lord to forgive you & help you get back on track?

### **The Charge to Endure ~**

#### **Reread 2 Timothy 3:10–17**

1. Personal: Select one aspect of Paul's life from vs 10 & share how his life example has influenced your life as a believer. Paul's doctrine, manner, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance.

2. What does Paul remind Timothy about the Lord's faithfulness? (vs 11)

3. Timothy was no doubt present during Paul's trials & even shared some with him. What lasting truth does Paul remind him of in vs 12?

4. What does Paul say about the fate of ungodly men & women? (vs 13)

5. As a spiritual father, what personal exhortation did Paul share with Timothy? (vs 14-15)

6. At a time when being a Christian could cost your life, Paul knew the power & potential of the Scriptures to save lives:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God & is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”. (vs 16)

Which of these areas is profitable for you at the present time?

### **In Touch with Jesus ~**

1. **LISTEN:** In what way did the Lord Jesus meet you in His Word this week? Be specific.

2. **LEARN:** How can you apply this understanding to your daily Christian walk?

3. **LIVE:** What step of obedience will you purpose to take in our walk of faith this week?