

The Most Excellent Way

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

“Sense of Urgency for the Last Days”

HEART ATTITUDE: Personally Responsible

These are the Last Days. How many days remain until the Lord Jesus Christ comes for His Church? No one knows. Do you have a sense of urgency to share the Gospel with as many people as possible?

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9 (NIV)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. (1)

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, (2)

Without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, (3)

Treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— (4)

Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. (5)

They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, (6)

Always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. (7)

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—

men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. (8)

But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone. (9)

The Holy Bible, New International Version.
Copyright 1978 by New York International Bible Society.

• FOCUSING

1. What adjectives would you use to describe the world in which we live today?

2. What goals drive the people with whom you work and live?

• STUDYING GOD’S WORD

3. What did Paul call to our attention? (3:1)

Paul’s reference to the *last days* reveals his sense of urgency. The last days began after Jesus’ resurrection, when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers at Pentecost. These days will continue until His Second Coming. In other words, we are living in the last days.

4. What will people be like in the last days? (3:2)

The Most Excellent Way

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

5. What will people in the last days lack? (3:3)

6. What will people in the last days love instead of God? (3:4)

The Scriptures' descriptive list of behaviors in the last days describes our society — even, sadly, many Christians. There is a comfortableness about superficial Christianity that should cause us to be uncomfortable. Check your life against this list (3:2-4). Don't give into society's pressures, your sinful nature's desires or the devil's wiles. Stand up against the evil, live as God would have His people live.

7. What kind of “godliness” will people have in the last days? (3:5)

The “form” or appearance of godliness includes going to church, knowing Christian doctrine, using Christian clichés, and following society's Christian traditions. Such practices can make us look good, but if the inner attitudes of belief, love and worship are lacking, the outer appearance and actions are meaningless. Paul warns us not to be deceived by people who appear to be Christians. We must examine ourselves as well. It may be difficult to distinguish the phonies from true Christians at first, but their lives will give them (us) away. The characteristics described in 3:2-4 are unmistakable, easily discerned.

8. What should you do with the kind of people Paul described? (3:5)

9. How do godless people exploit others? (3:6)

10. What controls the kind of godless people Paul described? (3:6)

11. What are godless people always doing? (3:7)

Women in Ephesus had no formal religious training because of their cultural background. They enjoyed their new freedom to study Christian truths, but their eagerness to learn made them a target for false teachers. We must watch out for men who would take advantage of these women. We must help them grow in their knowledge of the Word, because ignorance can make them vulnerable to deception.

It is possible to be a perpetual student and never graduate. Paul is not criticizing study and learning — he is warning about learning for learning's sake. Honest seekers are looking for answers. Remember this as you study God's Word. Seek to find God's truth and will for your life.

12. Why do certain people oppose the truth? (3:8)

13. To what historical figures were these godless people compared? (3:8)

The Most Excellent Way

Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

14. Why will godless people not get very far? (3:9)

Sin has consequences, and no one will get away with it forever. Live each day as if your actions will one day be known to everyone. Now is the time to change anything you wouldn't want revealed later.

• **UNDERSTANDING**

15. Why do you think we are or are not living in the last days?

-
16. Why are there people like the ones Paul described?

-
17. Why is it so tempting to be a lover of pleasure rather than a lover of God?

-
18. How can someone have a form of godliness yet deny its power?

-
19. What relationship should we have with people who flaunt their ungodly behavior?

-
20. In what way does our society encourage people to let themselves be controlled by evil desires?

-
21. In what way is the folly of ungodly people clear and apparent to everyone?

-
22. What do you think it means that godless people have depraved minds?
-

• **GETTING PERSONAL**

23. Are there organizations or people that you need to disassociate from? Why?

-
23. From what ungodly person or group do you need to encourage other believers to disassociate themselves?
-
-
-

The Most Excellent Way
Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

24. What specific sinful attitude or behavior will you ask God to help you overcome? Explain:

25. Do you have a sense of urgency to clean-up your life? Why? How?

May God richly bless you as you study His Word!