

# 2 Timothy

## CHAPTER 3:1-9

### Lesson 6

Paul warned Timothy of the importance of *knowing* certain things and how to react in them and towards those who walked in *resistance*. Their false message appeals to many who long for desires to be met. The behaviors listed in this section of chapter 3 may seem to be applicable to those who are outside the church. Sadly, even 2,000 years ago, this was not true. We experience this even more today. We are to be aware and we are to *turn away* from such people.

### Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.  
  
Key Words: *God* (the Father), *truth*, and *faith*
3. The contrasting word, *but*, is used three times in these nine verses. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

### Read 2 Timothy 3:1

1. 2 Timothy 3:1 begins with the words, *But know this*. What are we to know?

2. The period referred to in the Bible as the *last days* is understood to be the time beginning with the birth of the church at Pentecost and ending at the second coming of Jesus. What does Hebrews 2:1 reveal about the last days?
  - a. As history progresses, the signs of the last days are increasing. What word did Paul use to describe the *times* of the *last days*?
  - b. Define the word *perilous* as it relates to the *last days*.
  
3. The Greek word, translated as *perilous*, has been used only one other time in the Bible. It was used to describe two demon possessed men. What words were used to describe them? See Matthew 8:28.
  - a. *No one could pass their way*. How might the use of the words *perilous/fierce* relate to these last days?
  
4. In Matthew 24, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?" Verses 4-8 contain a portion of Jesus' answer, indicating these times would get worse and worse. What are some signs of the *end of the age*?
  - a. What are some indications of *last days* you have observed in recent years?
  
5. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day because they did not or would not understand the meaning of their *times*. What did He say to them in Matthew 16:2,3?
  - a. Why is it important to understand the *times*?

## Read 2 Timothy 3:2-5

1. Paul chose not to write about bad times, but bad behaviors that would grow worse. Using verses 2-4, list those behaviors.

a. Consider the times we live in. What have you observed about these behaviors becoming commonplace?

1.) Why is it so tempting to be a *lover of pleasure* rather than a *lover of God*?

2. *Having a form of godliness but denying its power* (verse 5). God rebuked this behavior in both the Old and New Testaments. What do these verses teach us about pretentious *godliness*?

Isaiah 29:13

Matthew 23:27,28

a. Describe someone who only has a *form of godliness*.

1.) How can someone have a form of godliness yet *deny its power*?

3. The men described in these verses were men in the church. What instruction is given regarding our reaction toward them?

a. Why is *turning away* sometimes necessary?

## Read 2 Timothy 3:6,7

1. 2 Timothy 3:6 describes one of the dangers of not *turning away* from these men. What are these dangers?

a. Using synonyms, define the word *gullible*.

2. These men *creep into households*. Reflect upon that phrase and describe the action and purpose of someone who would *creep into a household*.

3. 2 Timothy 3:6,7 describe the women who tend to be the targets of these men. Define each phrase:

*loaded down (burdened) with sins*

*lead away by various lusts*

*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*

a. What understanding does Ephesians 4:14 provide?

1.) What is Jesus' desire regarding all men?

4. Summarize the women of verses 6,7 who fall prey to the deception of the men of verses 2-5.

a. What would you say to a woman who had fallen prey to the tactics of this kind of man?

## Read 2 Timothy 3:8,9

1. Paul mentioned two men: *Jannes and Jambres*. It is believed they were two of the magicians or sorcerers who at first successfully imitated Moses as he brought forth the plagues. Eventually, they were not able to duplicate the work of God. What did they admit in Exodus 8:19?
  
2. These men *resisted the truth*. Describe what *resisting the truth* looks like in the church.
  - a. Read the account of Paul's encounter with Elymas the sorcerer in Acts 13:8-11 and record his reaction to this man who *withstood* Paul.
  
3. These men, described in 2 Timothy 3, were *men of corrupt minds*. Record the words of Jude 1:19.
  - a. How do you identify someone who has the Spirit?
  
  - b. How do you identify someone who does not have the Spirit?
  
4. The word translated as *disapproved* in 2 Timothy 3:8 is also translated as reprobate or disqualified. What did Paul write about these men in Titus 1:16?
  
5. Like the magicians who *resisted Moses*, these men would eventually be disposed of by God. What does 2 Timothy 3:9 say about them?



## Observation Worksheet

### 2 Timothy 3:1-9

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! <sup>6</sup> For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup> but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.