

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

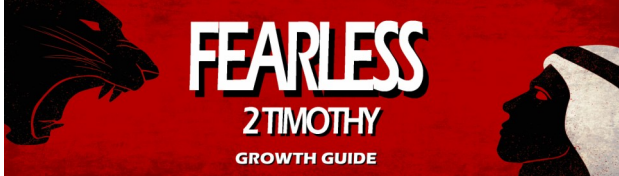
PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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FEARLESS
2TIMOTHY
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 6/04/2017
Study: 06/11/17

Fearless—Know Perilous Times Will Come

Troublesome People, Difficult Days

According to the text the last days will include seasons that will be difficult, troublesome, and hard to bear. I believe the connotation in this context has as its underpinning the tone of violence. The times will be fierce, violent. Why? Not because of famine, disease, or natural disasters but because of the people who populate that time.

Paul points out that there will be a certain type of people who make the times so difficult, and he goes on to provide a list of their characteristics. The list is not exhaustive but indicative. It represents the pathology of a community, society, culture, a country gone awry. Many competent commentators have done exhaustive work on unpacking and grouping the characteristics on this list. I would like to focus on the real problem that this list points to.

The real problem is Copernican in essence. As you may remember from high school science class, before the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus came along, scientists believed in the geocentric model of the solar system. They thought everything revolved around the earth. Copernicus proposed a model of the solar system whereby the planets orbited around the sun. What Paul is pointing out is that in the last days there will be a wholesale fundamental shift in our perception of the nature of reality.

A reverse Copernican revolution will take place. In the last days the center of all existence will be self instead of God. Life centered on self creates a black hole of degradation. In the black hole of self-centeredness, all types of sin and rebellion will brew. When the Son is no longer the center and self becomes the center, then people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemous, disobedient to parents, etc. You can add on to Paul’s list. The root of the problem is this inherent tendency in humanity to try to recreate reality so that we are the center.

This root issue manifests itself in misdirected love. Instead of people loving God as God, they will love self to the point of deification. Because they love self, they will do anything and everything to gratify self. This misdirected love expresses itself in misdirected energies. People will pursue things that are good as if they were ultimate. Idolatry is the chief expression of that effort—making and remaking gods in our image.

The only true God says, “You shall be holy for I am holy.” When self becomes the center, then we try to remake God and reorder his nature. “You (God) shall be (in my mind) _____, for I am _____.” You shall be greedy, for I am greedy. You shall be vindictive, for I am vindictive.

(“Entrusted with the Gospel: Pastoral Expositions of 2 Timothy”)

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KEY VERSE

2 Timothy 3:1

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: 2 Timothy 3:1-13

Do you consider yourself to be someone who keeps up with the news and current events?

How do you feel after you watch or read the news?

How would you describe the times we live in?

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-29

Description of Perilous Times

During the perilous times what things will people love?

Can you think of examples of these attributes in our world today?

Can you think of any examples of these attributes in yourself?

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 3:5-9; 1 Timothy 6:3-5

Deceiving Teachers

What will make these people especially tricky?

How can we spot these people?

What should we do when we encounter these people?

Thursday: 2 Timothy 3:10-11; Ephesians 5:1-2

Follow Good Doctrine and Paul's Example

What had Timothy followed?

Do you have someone in your life who is a Godly example for you to follow?

Who is following your Godly example?

Friday: 2 Timothy 3:12-13; John 15:18-25

Persecution

What do you think when you hear the word persecution?

Who will suffer persecution according to vs. 12?

Do you desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus? Do you feel a tension in your life between the world and following the Lord?

In John 15:18-25, what reason does Jesus give for the persecution we face?