

Perils To The Soul

Perilous times will come...

- Perilous: troublesome, difficult, dangerous, persecution, *hard times, times of stress*
- These perils are not what we might expect
 1. Wars
 2. Persecution
 3. Depression
 4. Moral decline

13: some perils come from apostates in pursuit of souls. 5: turn away.

I. Ignorance of God's Word

Progression... (2 Timothy 3:6) –

- Of this sort: ¹religious; ²eager to win converts
- Creep into: slip in... Mt.23:15
- Make captives: capture with a spear.
Josh.8:18; Jn.19:34. 2 Tim.3:5
- Gullible women: ‘little women’ – silly, naïve, weak, frivolous
- Loaded down with sins: heap up, pile up
- Led away by various lusts: strong desires...
(Balaam: Nu.31:8, 16)

Progression... (2 Timothy 3:7) –

- Always learning
- Never able to come to knowledge of truth
 - Acts 17:21, tell or hear some new thing
 - Ps.119:11, Word hidden in the heart
 - Mt.4:4, not by bread alone
 - Ho.4:6, destroyed for lack of knowledge

I. Ignorance of God's Word

II. Doctrines of Men

Progression... (2 Tim.3:8) – Ex.7:9

- Magicians opposed Moses by imitating him
- Aaron's rod turned into a serpent; magicians imitated it
- Also plagues –
 - ¹Water to blood...
 - ²Frogs...
 - ³Lice (?)
 - Real question: why not remove plagues?
 - Satan is a lying, deceitful imitator

Progression... (2 Timothy 3:8) –

- They resist truth. Ac.19:11-20, Ephesus
- Men of corrupt minds
- Disapproved concerning the faith.
Ac.8, Simon

Progression... (2 Timothy 3:8) –

For a while, Egyptian magicians
seemed Moses' equals

- Most witnesses of the contest did not worry about right / wrong – trusted local magicians
- Jer.28, who was right?
- 'Doctrines of men' – once in NT – Col.2:22
- 'Commandments of men' – three times –
 - Mt.15:9; Mk.7:7; Tit.1:14

I. Ignorance of God's Word

II. Doctrines of Men

III. Prejudice, 9

1. Prejudice: judgment before facts are known, 9

‘It is the lock on the door of the closed mind... the ignorance we usually mistake for reason ...the first enemy of information and progress. It is intellectual astigmatism...a perfect combination of conceit and ignorance. Prejudice never saved a soul nor settled any question in the light of truth or justice.’

a. **Jews:** Jn.5:39

b. **Bereans:** Ac.17:11

1. Prejudice: judgment before facts are known
2. God's judgments exposed magicians; frauds.
 - Pharaoh would not change course.
 - His judgment reached its climax; Egypt was destroyed; all could see the truth.
 - Worst folly of all: going to hell on purpose

I. Ignorance of God's Word

II. Doctrines of Men

III. Prejudice

IV. Indifference, 10-12

- Paul's persecutions – evidence of godly life
- Despite Paul's scars . . . Timothy willingly became his apprentice
- Our persecution usually comes in form of ...
 1. Ridicule
 2. Isolation
 3. Denied promotions
 4. False accusations, etc.
- Rv.3:15 – even Christians must examine themselves

I. Ignorance of God's Word

II. Doctrines of Men

III. Prejudice

IV. Indifference

V. Desire to Please Men, 4:1-4

Paul warns Timothy (2 Tim.4)

1. God will judge you. 1 Sm.15:24-25

2. Tell people what they need to hear ...

1) when they like it, and 2) when they don't

3-4. 'Ears' = hearing. Jer.5:30-31

- A scratched itch
- Fables
- Cry of our age: please everybody...