

## Perilous Times are Inevitable IV

*KJV 2 Timothy 3:1* This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come.** <sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <sup>4</sup> Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup> **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:** from such turn away.

This list of characteristics is like *Romans 1*.

The last day from the first century to the return of Christ.

These characteristics are inevitable.

Inevitable means incapable of being avoided or evaded.

*KJV John 14:2* And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

*KJV 1 Corinthians 15:51* Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,** <sup>52</sup> In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

*KJV Matthew 23:36* Verily I say unto you, All these things **shall come** upon this generation.

God's love is unconditional.

God's promises are conditional.

God's declarations are inevitable.

## I

Perilous times are difficult times.

*1 Timothy 3:1* This know also, that in the last days perilous times.

The world will see terrible times of societal degeneration.

Degenerate means having declined or become less specialized (as in nature, character, structure, or function) from an ancestral or former state.

Degenerate means having sunk to a condition below that which is normal to a type.

## II

Paul gave an extraordinary list (cf. *Romans. 1:28-32*) of 19 general characteristics believers should expect.

None of these characteristics are good.

These characteristics are a threat to spiritual health, safety and power of the body of Christ.

These characteristics continue to corrupt the church of Christ until He returns.

*MSG 2 Timothy 3:2* As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, <sup>3</sup> dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. <sup>5</sup> **They'll make a show of religion**, but behind the scenes they're animals. **Stay clear of these people.**

### III

Our presence in some spaces is an indication we are in agreement with what is taking place.

*Vs 5b* from such turn away.

No doubt Paul had in mind here Timothy's official associations, since he had already instructed Timothy to be kind to everyone.

**2 Timothy 2:24** And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

There is always a tension between official association with people, groups and gatherings and being respectful, just, and kind to people.

Perilous times are here!

Perilous times are dangerous!

- Perilous times demand conviction!
- Perilous times demand strength of character!

Perilous times demand backbone!

*Rhema Christian Center  
Bishop La Fayette Scales  
Saturday & Sunday, August 12 & 13, 2023  
9:30 a.m.*