

Characteristics of the Last Days: A List of What NOT to Be (2 Tim 3:1-7)

²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will. **3:1 ¶** But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶ 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, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress

2:24-29 – The Essence of Ministry

Shepherds

- Status Defined – slaves of the Lord (God appointed, God owned, God controlled)
- Methods Described – no quarreling, but a gentle, patient approach
- Duty Described – correcting those in opposition

Sheep

- Opposing (placing oneself down against)
- Needing God to work
- Missing acknowledgement of the truth
- Having been captured by the devil to do his will

3:1-9 – The Difficulty of Ministry in Latter Days

The Command

- This be knowing

The Chronology – The Timing

- In last days – toward the end

The Content

- Difficult seasons
- Shall come in

The Characteristics of Mankind (“for men [generic term - think “people”] shall be”)

- lovers of themselves (φίλαυτος – philautos) lovers of self – selfish, self-centered
- lovers of money (φιλάργυρος – philarguros) fond of money
(opposite 1 Tim 3:3; Heb 13:5 without covetousness)
Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- boasters (ἀλαζών – alazōn) overstating oneself; misrepresenting oneself; dishonest about oneself
ἀλαζονεία – alazoneia = pride, arrogance
James 4:16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. (maybe demanding more than one rightfully deserves)
- proud (ὑπερήφανος – huperephanos) arrogant, proud – having an overestimated opinion of oneself
James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
1 Pet 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
- blasphemers (βλάσφημος – blasphemos) evil speaking; speaking against God; insulting, slanderous
Acts 6:11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."

- disobedient to parents (γονεύς, ἕως m – goneus) parent; (ἀπειθής – apeithees) disobedient, rebellious
 - Matt 10:21** "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.
 - Luke 21:16** "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put *some* of you to death.
 - Rom 1:30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
 - (Luke 18:29)** So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God,")
 - Eph 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
 - Col 3:20** Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
 - Titus 1:16** They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.
 - Titus 3:3** For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.
- unthankful (ἀχάριστος – acharistos) ungrateful (ungranting; ungiving; unforgiving) – selfish toward others
 - Luke 6:35** "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.
- unholy (ἀνόσιος – anosios) irreligious, impious – unworshipful or indifference towards God in actions
 - 1 Tim 1:9** knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,
- unloving (ἄστοργος – astorgos) lacking normal human affection, inhuman (without family love)
 - Rom 1:31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, [unforgiving], unmerciful;
- unforgiving (ἄσπονδος – aspondos) irreconcilable; merciless
 - Rom 1:31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, [unforgiving], unmerciful
- slanderers (διάβολος – diabolos) the Devil; one who falsely accuses; given to malicious gossip (Rev 12:7-12)
 - 1 Tim 3:11** Likewise *their* wives *must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things (Titus 2:3)
- without self-control (ἀκρατής – akratees) lacking self-control, violent; without dominion of self?
- brutal (ἀνήμερος – aneemeros) fierce, vicious; lit. "untame"
- despisers of good (ἀφιλάγαθος – aphilagathos) enemy to goodness (Titus 1:8 lover of good *men*)
- traitors (προδότης – prodotees) traitor, betrayer; treacherous person [given before, taken back?]
 - Luke 6:16** Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor. (Acts 7:52 Jews)
- headstrong (προπητής – propetees) rash, reckless
 - Acts 19:36** Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly.
- haughty (τυφόμεαι b – tufhoomai or τυφώω – tufhoo) be swollen with pride
 - 1 Tim 3:6** not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.
 - 1 Tim 6:4** he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,
- lovers of pleasure (φιλήδονος – phileedonos) rather than lovers of God (φιλόθεος – philotheos),
 - Luke 8:14** pleasures of this life (James 4:1,3 – "lusts")

3:6-9 – ⁶ 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, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

- Seducible
- Saturated with lusts
- Studying without effect
- Soured minds
- Standing against the truth