

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Understand Our Times

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

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Scriptures:

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Theme: Understand our times so your hope is strengthened.

Introduction: In Luke 12:54-56, Jesus rebukes his audience for being able to understand the weather, but not the spiritual significance of the present time. So, too, in 2 Tim 3, Paul calls us to understand our times. There is a lot of sadness in his description of humanity in this text, and we need to understand the significance of our present time so that we can obey what Paul tells us to do.

Paul shows us 2 aspects of the present time:

1. The Last Days (1-5)

Paul tells us that we live in the “last days,” a term that can be confusing.

By “last days,” Paul is not referring so much to weeks or months, but to an age.

The last days began with Jesus’ incarnation and will continue until his return.

He also tells us that these will be “times of difficulty.” The last days are characterized by certain struggles that make life hard.

Paul gives us a vice list of evils that will characterize our age. He does not blame the church for the problems of our age, but he blames the wicked heart of man.

The world is characterized by total depravity, which means that fallen man is warring against God and that his people will therefore face opposition.

After describing the evil of the world, Paul gives a simple prescription: “Avoid such people.” We don’t try to win them by our niceness; instead, we distance ourselves in part to communicate the path of repentance.

2. Days of twisted teachers (6-9)

The main reason we’re called to avoid such persons is because there are false teachers who are skilled at wrecking havoc on the church.

They prey on weak women, whose consciences are burdened by condemnation.

That condemnation, mixed with other desires, leads them to an unrestrained pursuit of knowledge, a task that is never satisfied.

Paul likens the false teacher to the Egyptian magicians, Jannes and Jambres, who opposed Moses in Pharaoh’s court.

The evil path of the false teachers will eventually be revealed. We may just need to wait and allow the Lord to make it plain.

Questions:

1. How are you responding to the troubles of our day? Are you anxious? Discouraged? Angry?

2. Where do you find hope?

3. Are you risking the offense of the world for the sake of Christ?