

# “Living in the Last Days”

2 Timothy 3:1-17

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Media Reference Number GSX810

Wednesday August 6, 2025

*When did the Last Days begin?*

**Hebrews 1:1-2** “<sup>1</sup> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.”

*Fast Facts about the ‘Last Days’*

1. The period of time is what exists between Christ’s first and second coming.
  - a. They began with His public ministry and continue until He returns.
  - b. **Last Days**: refers to a broader period marking the final phase of God's dealings with humanity before the culmination of history. Associated with the current church age or dispensation, the time leading up to the end times.
  - c. **End Times**: a more specific term, referring to the final events surrounding the return of Christ. including the rapture of the church, the seven-year tribulation, the second coming of Christ, and the establishment of the millennial kingdom. The "end times" is seen as a shorter, more intense period of divine judgment and fulfillment of prophecy, centered on passages like Daniel 9:24-27, Matthew 24, and Revelation 6-19.
2. There will be an increasing outward secular rebellion coupled with corruption within the church.
3. There will be an increasing magnitude of narcissistic behavior.
4. Once the ‘*Rapture*’ takes place, the next thing on the prophetic clock is that the ‘*lawless one*’ will be revealed.
  - a. **2 Thessalonians 2:5-12** “<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those

who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

- I. Lawlessness, leads to the Lawless One – the Antichrist. The breakdown of governments, the rule of law, morality, marriage, family, etc., these all whittle away God given institutions, given for the preservation of humanity; mankind knocking down the pillars of civilization, will lead to the Antichrist.

The Restrainer, the Holy Spirit resident in the church, acting as salt and light in the earth is what hinders the arrival of the Anarchist. Some compare this to how the Holy Spirit seems to have had a special kind of ministry of restraining or striving against mankind’s evil before the Flood (see Genesis 6:3: “My spirit shall not always strive with man..”); but when that time was up the flood came; thus when the Holy Spirit’s ministry thru the church is concluded, up we go, and restrained evil is let loose.

*So, as the time draws closer to the 2<sup>nd</sup> return of Jesus, things will grow worse and worse. The Holy Spirit and, therefore, the Church will be removed. There will be a time of unprecedented global deception like no other time in history. Then the lawless one will be revealed.*

## The Outline of 2<sup>ND</sup> Timothy

1. THE PASTORAL APPEAL— Chapter 1
2. THE PRACTICAL APPEAL— Chapter 2
3. THE PROPHETIC APPEAL— Chapter 3
4. THE PERSONAL APPEAL— Chapter 4

## **1. Because They Will be Perilous**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5a** “<sup>1</sup> But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

- *The Last Days* –

- *Last* – “eschatology” comes from *eschatos*, the Greek word translated into English as ‘last.’
  - **1 Timothy 4:1-2** “<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...”

- *Perilous times will come* –

- Perilous “hard to do or deal with, difficult, fierce,” is said of the Gadarene demoniacs, Matt. 8:28; (b) “hard to bear, painful, grievous,” Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Vol. 2, p. 234). T. Nelson.

- *Because men will*

- Love themselves, money, and pleasure.
- The Unholy trinity, or the trinity of self!
  - *Lovers of Self* – Philautos – *Philos* (love) + *autos* (self) = selfish, narcissistic, self-centered.
  - *Lovers of Money* – *Philargyroi* – *Philos* (love) + *argyros* (silver/money) = greedy; fond of wealth.
    - “*In this universe there is God, and there are people and things. We should worship God, love people, and use things. But if we start worshiping ourselves, we will ignore God and start loving things and using people.*” <sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 249). Victor Books.
  - *Lovers of Pleasure* – Philēdonos – *Philos* (love) + *hedone* (pleasure) = pleasure focused.
    - Often implies pleasure for its own sake, without regard for God or others.
      - **James 4:1** “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do *they* not come from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members?”
      - **James 3:16** “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”
- *Will be*
  - *Boastful* – Braggarts; arrogant pretenders who boast of what they don’t have.
  - *Proud* – looking down on others.

- *Blasphemers* – The word “*blasphemy*” is practically confined to speech defamatory of the Divine Majesty.
- *Disobedient* to parents – *Apeitheis* – unpersuadable, stubborn, rebellious.
- *Unthankful* – without thankfulness.
- *Unholy* – profane and lacking reverence for what is holy.
- *Unloving* – *Astorgos* – family love; *a* - prefix negates it. No natural affection, cold, heartless.
- *Unforgiving* – Unreconcilable, refusing to make peace or keep agreements.
- *Slanderers* – *diaboloi*, same word used for the devil; false accusers, malicious gossips.
- *Without self-control* – Lacking power over self; driven by impulses. They live to please their impulses. It literally means ‘*without strength*’. A man/woman who is easily led into sin.
- *Brutal* – Savage, untamed, cruel.
- *Despisers of good* – (“not lovers of the good”) has not been found elsewhere in Greek literature. But its meaning is clear from its composition: *a*-negative, *philos* (“lover”) and *agathos* (“good”).
- *Traitors* – (Think Judas Iscariot) people who betray others.
- *Headstrong* – lit. means “falling forwards” (from *pro*, “forwards,” and *pipto*, “to fall”); it is used metaphorically to signify “precipitate, rash, reckless, acting without careful thought.”
- *Haughty* – lifted up with pride, or wrapped in smoke. Someone who is puffed up with self-importance. They could say things like, ‘*Do you know how many followers I have?*’ or ‘*Do you know who I am?*’

○ *Will have*

- *A form of godliness* – *Morphōsis* - outward form; *eusebeia* - reverence or piety. Outward religiosity without inward reality.
- How can you tell?
  - **Matthew 15:18-20** “<sup>18</sup> But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. <sup>20</sup> These are *the things* which defile a man...”

## 2. By Turning Away.

**2 Timothy 3:5b-9** “<sup>5</sup> And from such people turn away! <sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup> but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.”

- *Turn away* – or avoid.
  - Because they are religious and rebellious!
  - *Avoid evil people*
    - **1 Timothy 6:3-5** “<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain. From such withdraw yourself.”
    - **Titus 1:10-11** “<sup>10</sup> For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, <sup>11</sup> whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.”
  - *Avoid foolish arguments*
    - **Titus 3:9a** “But avoid foolish disputes...”
    - **2 Timothy 2:23** “But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.”
      - Obviously, in person, but this should also include your online platforms.
- *They resist the truth* –
  - So, trying to reason with them is impossible and, therefore, should be avoided.
    - Don't be lifted up with pride, thinking that you can win an argument with them; also, do not be discouraged because you cannot win an argument with them.

- **Romans 1:18-20** “<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...”
- **1 Corinthians 2:14** “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- **Colossians 2:20-23** “<sup>20</sup> Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—<sup>21</sup> “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” <sup>22</sup> which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? <sup>23</sup> These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”

### 3. By following the Pattern.

**2 Timothy 3:10-12** “<sup>10</sup> But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, <sup>11</sup> persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. <sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

- **Carefully followed** – *parakoloutheo*, “to follow up,” is used of investigating or “tracing” a course of events.
  - I need to follow in the pattern, be careful to follow it.
- They followed Paul’s
  - Doctrine – teaching/content of teaching.
  - Manner of life – Behavior or conduct.
  - *Purpose* – Life’s mission. (To bring glory to God)
  - *Faith* – conviction, belief, and personal faithfulness.
  - *Long-suffering* – the ability to endure trouble, offense, etc., without retaliation.
  - *Love* – (agape) selfless, sacrificial, unconditional.
  - *Perseverance* – *Hupo* (under) + *menō* (to remain) – to remain under pressure, **to** endure steadfastly.



- *Persecutions* – outwardly from others against his faith.
- *Afflictions* – suffering, pain, distress.
- What pattern are you leaving for another to follow?
  - **Galatians 2:14** “But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, “If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?”
    - *Straightforward* – *orthopodeo* “to walk in a straight path” (*orthos*, “straight,” *pous*, “a foot”), is used metaphorically in Gal. 2:14, signifying a “course of conduct” by which one leaves a straight track for others to follow.
- *The Lord delivered me* –
  - **Psalms 34:19** “Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”

#### 4. By Staying in the Word.

**2 Timothy 3:13-15** “<sup>13</sup> But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, <sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

- *Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse* –
  - The trend in the world will continue to head in the direction of evil.
  - We don’t give up and give in!
  - We continue to stand!
  - We DON’T quit!
- *Deceiving and being deceived* –
  - **Federal agents**, such as those in the **U.S. Secret Service**, which is responsible for protecting U.S. currency, are primarily trained to **study genuine bills in detail**, not the counterfeits.
  - **Why?**
    - There are **countless ways** to make a fake, and new counterfeiting methods appear constantly.
    - But there’s **only one way to make the real thing**.
- As Christians, we **MUST** study to
  - Discerning false doctrine
  - Avoiding spiritual deception

- Stay grounded
- *You must continue* –
  - In the things you have learned.
  - The only way to defeat Satan's lies is with God's truths.

So, what are we to continue in? The Holy Scriptures.

## 5. By Being Equipped

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** <sup>16</sup> "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

- In the word.
- *All scripture* –
  - *Because scripture is 'living and powerful'*
    - **Hebrews 4:12** "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
- *Inspiration of God* – Literally "God-breathed."
  - *"All Scripture is God-breathed." That is exactly what the Greek says. The adjective theopneustos (only here in the NT) is compounded of theos, "God," and the verb pneō, "breathe."*<sup>1</sup>

Earle, R. (1981). [2 Timothy](#). In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Ephesians through Philemon* (Vol. 11, p. 409). Zondervan Publishing House.
  - **2 Peter 1:21b** "...holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."
- Profitable for
  - *Doctrine* – teaching or instruction.
  - *Reproof* – (Negative) Pointing out a failure to bring inward conviction brought about by God's word.
  - *Correction* – (Positive) restoring to an upright state to cause growth.
  - *Instruction* – guidance in spiritual formation.
    - *"So, it originally meant 'the rearing of a child.' Then it came to mean 'training, learning, instruction.' Christians need to be trained in 'righteousness'—both inward and*



**outward.”**<sup>1</sup> Earle, R. (1981). 2 Timothy. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Ephesians through Philemon* (Vol. 11, p. 410). Zondervan Publishing House.

- **Complete, thoroughly equipped –**
  - ***“Thoroughly equipped” is the combination of an adjective and the perfect passive participle of a verb. The adjective is artios (only here in the NT). BAG defines it thus: “complete, capable, proficient = able to meet all demands” (p. 110). The verb is exartizō (only here and Acts 21:5), “equip, furnish.” See F.E. Gaebelin, The Christian Use of the Bible (Chicago: Moody Press, 1946) for an extended treatment of 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.1 BAG Bauer, Arndt, and Gingrich: Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament. Earle, R. (1981). 2 Timothy. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Ephesians through Philemon (Vol. 11, p. 410). Zondervan Publishing House.***
- **For every good work –**
  - ***“Two words in this verse are especially important: “perfect” and “furnished.” The word translated “perfect” means “complete, in fit shape, in fit condition.” It does not begin to suggest sinless perfection. Rather, it implies being fitted for use. “Furnished” has a similar meaning: “equipped for service.” In other words, the Word of God furnishes and equips a believer so that he can live a life that pleases God and do the work God wants him to do. The better we know the Word, the better we are able to live and work for God. The purpose of Bible study is not just to understand doctrines or to be able to defend the faith, as important as these things are. The ultimate purpose is the equipping of the believers who read it. It is the Word of God that equips God's people to do the work of God.” Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 2, p. 253). Victor Books.***

**Galatians 6:9** “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

***“Young William Wilberforce was discouraged one night in the early 1790s after another defeat in his 10-year battle against the slave trade in England. Tired and frustrated, he opened his Bible and began to leaf through it. A small piece of paper fell out and fluttered to the floor. It was a letter written by John Wesley shortly before his death.***

*Wilberforce read it again: "Unless the divine power has raised you up... I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that (abominable practice of slavery), which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? Oh, be not weary of well-doing. Go on in the name of God, and in the power of His might."*

*Daily Bread*, June 16, 1989.

- *Slave Trade Abolished (1807)*

- After nearly **20 years of tireless work** in Parliament, Wilberforce helped pass the **Slave Trade Act of 1807**, which **banned the transatlantic slave trade** in the British Empire.
- This law **did not yet free existing slaves**, but it ended Britain's involvement in capturing, shipping, and selling enslaved Africans.

- *Slavery Abolished (1833)*

- Wilberforce **continued advocating** for full emancipation until his health declined.
- In **1833**, the **Slavery Abolition Act** passed through Parliament — **just three days before Wilberforce died on July 29, 1833.**
  - It received royal assent on **August 28, 1833**. The final passing was one month after he passed away.
- This law led to the **freedom of over 800,000 enslaved people** across British colonies.

*"God Almighty has set before me two great objects: the suppression of the Slave Trade and the reformation of manners (morals)." William Wilberforce*