

July 25, 2021

2 Timothy 3

by Ken Weliever

“Preaching must be marked by three elements, advised Warren Wiersbe. “Conviction. Warning. And appeal.”

In other words, “Reprove, rebuke and exhort.

To quote an old rule of preachers, “He should afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.”

“If there is conviction but no remedy, we add to people’s burdens. And if we encourage those who ought to be rebuked, we are assisting them to sin. Biblical preaching must be balanced.”

In reading Paul’s letters to the young evangelist, Timothy, pastors, preachers, and people in the pews are warned about potential pitfalls in living the Christian life. Provided evidence to convince and convict us regarding the seriousness of sin. And exhorted to be guided by God’s Word.

Chapter three offers a three-fold instruction to ministers of the Word, as well as to all Christians on how to deal with “perilous times” during the “last days.”

On a side note, we hear a lot about living in the “last days.” We are. But we have been for 2,000 years. Peter proclaimed that the last days began on Pentecost when Joel’s prophecy was fulfilled (Acts 2:14-21).

#1 Realize We’re Living in “Terrible Times.”

Look at the description of ungodly people:

Lovers of self.

Lovers of money.

Proud.

Arrogant

Abusive.

Disobedient to their parents

Ungrateful.

Unholy.

Heartless.

Unforgiving.

Slanderous.

Without self-control.

Brutal.

Haters of good.

Treacherous.

Reckless.

Swollen with conceit.

Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Fake religious piety.

What a list! It’s both a realistic description of our day, but a discouraging one as well. We can’t stick our heads in the sand and deny the reality of Satan’s assault on our souls through his emissaries and minions.

The charge is plainly put—“Avoid such people.” Don’t be influenced by them. Don’t be deceived by them. Don’t follow them.

Furthermore, preachers should warn others about these profane people. Pastors need to be Shepherding the souls entrusted to them, realizing these

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde is having their summer series “Gifts We Can Use For God” each Thursday through August 19.

Westside Annual Youth Lectures - July 30 - Aug. 1 in Irving

Youth Lectures - O’Connor Road, San Antonio, August 6-8

Mark your calendar! Our next gospel meeting will be September 12-15 with Mike Walls.

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

dangers. And parents need to teaching and training their children to avoid these destructive and damnable influences.

#2 Follow the Example of Godly People.

Paul appealed to Timothy to “continue in the things you have learned.” Paul’s pattern of faithfulness, attitude, and purpose of life, was one that Timothy could emulate. In addition, his childhood teaching and the examples of his mother and grandmother provided a trustworthy influence he could imitate.

Find a “Paul” that you can follow. A preacher. A pastor. A parent. A faithful Christian friend. Seek companions who will provide spiritual assurance and assistance during perilous times.

#3 Turn to God’s Word for Divine Guidance.

The last two verses of this text remind us how God’s Word can help us navigate through difficult times. The Word shows you what is right. The Word shows you what is wrong. The Word helps you get right. The Word helps you stay right. And the Word equips you for every righteous work.

D. L. Moody was right when he proclaimed, “The Bible was not given for our information, but for our transformation.” If we are to resist the ungodly influences of the perilous times to conform to the world, we must be transformed.

While I’m basically a positive person, a realistic appraisal of our culture reminds me of the truth of Paul’s assessment. “Evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived”

Finally, any respite from the perils of our wicked world, will not be found in political, economic or social solutions. Rather the answer is Jesus Christ. The message must be the Gospel. Our faith founded in the Word. And our hope

focused upward.

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is at home recovering from surgery and seems to be doing a little better.

Doug Adair is struggling with back pain. His second opinion still recommended surgery.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing cancer treatments.

Nancy Richardson is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

Karen Hallmark has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

Dinah Williams continues to be homebound due to mobility issues. She had a small fire at her house last week and is staying at the Comfort Inn while repairs are being made.

Bobbie Gibbons continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues.

Tyler Hairston has cancer and has exhausted all conventional treatments.

Dorthy Steadman is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Hank in Houston.

Anna Urquhart is recovering from knee surgery.

Beverly Barth is undergoing further tests for her heart.

Audria Trammel will be undergoing a biopsy in early August.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

*“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)*

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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