LAST DAYS GRIEVOUS TIMES

2Timothy 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

“Mark this” is literally “know this.”

Last days:

Isaiah 11:11 Second re-gathering of the remnant of Israel to the Holy Land.

Daniel 12:4 Meaning of Daniel revealed; many will go back and forth and knowledge will increase.

Matthew 24:14 The Gospel preached to every people group *(ethnos).*

2 Peter 3:3-6 Denial of world-wide flood in the days of Noah.

“Terrible” is most usually translated “fierce” or “violent” or “dangerous” in its only other use in the New Testament in Matthew 8:28 where it describes two demonized men. Common other translations of 2 Timothy 3:1 are “perilous,” “difficult,” “dangerous” and “grievous.” Vine’s says it means, “hard to deal with, hard to bear, grievous.”

What People Will Be Like

2 Timothy 3:2-4 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God –

“Lovers of themselves.” A good self-image is important. With so many children growing up in fractured and dysfunctional family situations, many people in our culture have a horrible self-image. The cultural solution is to tell children to focus on the things they do better than everyone else, which generally only produces pride.

“Self-image is not what you think of yourself. It’s not even what others think of you. It’s what you think others think of you.” Chip Ingram. Children in stable families where they know they are loved and valued generally have a good self-image.

Since we can’t provide children and adults with stable, loving families, we must do something else. We must tell them they are valuable to the Creator of the Universe who loves them so much and wanted to spend eternity with them so much that he sent His only Son to die on an ugly cross to pay for their sins that they might be forgiven.

In my experience, feeling the overwhelming, unconditional love of God only comes when we admit we are seriously messed up and humble ourselves before God. Luke 7:27 “Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

“Lovers of money.” I Timothy 6:9&10 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

“Boastful.” “If you’ve got it, flaunt it.” Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 23:12 “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

“Proud” Vines’s says it means “showing oneself above others…arrogant, disdainful, proud.” James 4:6b & I Peter 5:5b(ESV) “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

“Abusive” is *“blasphemos”* in Greek. We get the English word blaspheme from it.

I Timothy 1:12 “Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.” The word essentially means to speak evil of someone either to their face or behind their back. It refers to verbal, not physical abuse. In English we use it almost exclusively to mean to speak evil of God, but that is not the case in Greek, as I Timothy 1:12 shows.

“Disobedient to their parents.” Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” which is the first commandment with a promise – “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Romans 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Our culture has systematically sought to erode parental authority, but encouraging children to disobey their parents leads to disobedience to other authorities, and ultimately to disobedience to God. In our culture the situation is made worse by the alarming number of abusive parents and the number of children who live with only one or neither parent.

“Ungrateful.” Romans 1:20&21 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God, nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

“Unholy.” The Greek word combines in the negative the meanings of doing what is right with the concept of being gracious. John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is Christ.

Things to Remember

There is solid biblical evidence that we are in the last days.

God says the last days will be terrible, perilous, hard to endure.

They will be that way because of how people will act. They will be:

Lovers of themselves – We need to know we are loved by God.

Lovers of money – You can’t serve God and money.

Boastful

Proud

Verbally abusive

Disobedient to parents

Ungrateful

Unholy (not doing the right thing and/or not being gracious)

We should not be any of these things. Rather we should be the opposite of these things. The darker the night, the more visible the light. If our culture continues to get darker, it will only be because the church is not being the light it should be.

Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”