THEIR FOLLY WILL BE CLEAR TO EVERYONE

2 Timothy 3:9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

Review

2 Timothy 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

What Such People Do

2 Timothy 3:6&7 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desire, always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

There always have been and always will be people who creep into the church who are not God’s people. Galatians 2:4 This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

Jude 3&4 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people. For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves.

Matthew 13:24-30 & 37-43 The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (Tares)

“gullible women” refers to those who follow such teachers, not women in general. The Mormon church has publicly admitted that Joseph Smith had up to 40 wives, with other sources saying the number was over 50. David Koresh and Jim Jones both had sexual relationships with many of their female followers.

Paul says the women who are attracted to such false teachers “are loaded down with sins and swayed by all kinds of evil desire.” The Message paraphrases the verses this way, “These are the kind of people who smooth-talk themselves into the home of unstable and needy women and take advantage of them; women who, depressed by their sinfulness, take up with every new religious fad that calls itself “truth.” They get exploited every time and never really learn.”

“Never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.” Jesus said in John 7:16&17 “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

John 8:31&32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Luke 6:40(ESV) “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

John 3:19-21 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Jannes and Jambres

2 Timothy 3:8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.

Exodus 7:8-10 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake. So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake.

Exodus 7:11-13 Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts. Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

The magicians also turned water to blood and brought frogs out of the Nile. But they could not do the third plague and “the magicians said to Pharaoh, ‘This is the finger of God.’ But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.” (Exodus 8:19)

The magicians opposed Moses by claiming to represent equal spiritual power, but had to admit defeat. Those who teach falsehoods while claiming to follow Christ have a message with no spiritual power to change lives. They have “depraved minds,” the Greek word means minds that have been thoroughly corrupted. They have been tested and “as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.”

What Will Happen to Those Who Have a Form of Godliness but Deny Its Power?

2 Timothy 3:9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

The magicians were able to compete partially with Moses and Aaron (Aaron’s snake swallowed their snakes) for a brief period of time but had to admit defeat after the third plague began. They did not get very far (There were eight more plagues).

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

Perhaps the simplest definition of truth is that which accords with reality. Jesus is real and is the Ultimate Reality. God’s Word is truth; what it says accords with reality. When people reject God’s truth, they end up rejecting reality, and when you reject reality, your folly eventually becomes apparent to everyone.

I could say, “I don’t believe in gravity.” But if I jumped off a building, reality would become obvious. The current nonsense about gender being assigned and not being biologically obvious is a good example of this. The fact that gays and lesbians commit suicide at a rate three to four times the heterosexual average and that transgenders commit suicide at twenty times the national average suicide rate should make it obvious that denying the obvious results in “folly.”

Things to Remember

Scripture is very clear that there will be those who teach falsehood, those who have a form of godliness but deny its power inside the church.

Most, but not all, of these false teachers will be men, many of whom will have a following of gullible women.

Coming to know the truth is more a decision of the will than of the mind. People who are unwilling to acknowledge their sin will never come to a knowledge of the truth.

Those who oppose what is true will eventually have their folly become apparent to everyone.