

THE LAST DAYS

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *“But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self,”* (II Tim. 3:1ff). (Compare I Tim. 4:1ff).
1. So many times the term “last days” has been taken out of context and given a life of its own.
 2. It has become the “Subject” of the passage.
 - a. That is, attention is focused upon it “last days” instead of what was about to happen.
 - b. Losing sight of the Christian’s warning of what was to be and what he was to do.
- B. THE SUBJECT IS NOT THE TIME.
1. But the action of man.
 2. And the reaction of Timothy and Christians.
 3. A brief look at the use of the phrase in the Old and New Testaments will help us understand its meaning and the way it should be used.
-

By The World Today

- A. The “LAST DAYS” has become the SUBJECT! Point of Emphasis.
1. Those who are looking for an immediate return of Christ, set a time frame, and point to “signs” for His coming.
 2. “We are living in the ‘last days’ because.....”
 3. With each new event in the world, they declare it to be a sign that we are living in “the last days.”
- B. Thus the “LAST DAYS” is limited to the time immediately preceding the advent of Christ.
1. With this in view they read II Timothy 3, then
 2. They look at the world today.
 3. See in the action of man today - the evidence of our living in “The Last Days”.
- C. THE DANGER OF EMPHASIZING ONE PERIOD OF TIME.
1. When that period passes, men lose their fear of God. (Read II Pet. 3:4).
 2. This cycle has been repeated numerous times. From the days of Rome, Dark Ages, American Revolution, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Etc.
 3. This within itself should show us the real meaning of II Tim. 3.
How we should react to a sinful world.
-

THE LAST DAYS

Page 2

THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. It is a phrase used often in the O. T. (Gen. 49:1; Num. 24:14; Deut. 4:30; Isa. 2:2; Jer. 23:20; 30:24;....
1. Refers to “the days to come,” “the future”.
 2. What is included in that “future” must be determined by the context in each instance.
 3. The subject is not phrase “last days” but what is happening.
- B. There are those passages “in the last days” that refer to the age ushered in by Christ’s appearance on earth.
1. Isa. 2:2; Micah 4:1.
 2. Joel 2:23 - Quoted in Acts 2:16-17. “...*this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel; And it shall be in the last days saith God I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all flesh:....*”
 3. The Emphasis is never on the phrase “last days” but on the event. The Coming Of The Savior!
-

THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. LAST DAYS IS USED TO DESCRIBE THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN AGE!
1. “....*but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ; who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was manifested at the end of the times for your sake.*” (I Pet. 1:19-20.).
 - a. Christ came and shed His blood for us.
 - b. Was manifested at the end of the times.
 2. “*God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things...*” (Heb. 1:1,2).
 - a. When did God begin to speak to us through His Son?
 - b. The “Last Days” just before the return of Christ??
 - c. Or...the ‘last days’ the whole of the Christian Age.
- B. “*But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons...*” (I Tim. 4:1).
1. When will the false teachers and teaching come?
 2. Just before Christ’s Return....OR during the whole of the Christian Age.
-

THE LAST DAYS

Page 3

THE TEXT

- A. ARE THE EVENTS DESCRIBED BY PAUL, FOUND ONLY IN OUR TIME?
1. How about in 1903. A hundred years ago?
 2. Or in 103. 2000 years ago? What was the world like in Paul's day?
 3. Or at any time in between.
- B. READ ROMANS 1:24-32.
1. This describes the way men were living in New Testament times.
 2. Now compare the list with that in II Timothy.
 3. These things were happening then...NOT reserved for some "latter time".
- C. THE POINT...THE LESSON IN II TIMOTHY 3.
1. 'But understand this, that in the last days grievous seasons will set in; for the people will be self loving....**and from such people turn away!!**
 2. It would be senseless to tell Timothy to avoid people who would never bother him at all!
-

CONCLUSION

- A. REALIZE THAT IN THESE LAST DAYS...the lengthy dispensation in which we are **now living** there will be grievous seasons.
1. Paul's point was not to identify a period of time...to watch for a period of time....
 2. But to avoid sin and those who promote it.
- B. WE ARE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS.
1. It is not just a short, brief period of time before the advent of Christ.
 2. But the whole of the Christian Age.
 3. THIS LESSON (II TIM. 3) HAS BEEN TRUE FOR EVERY GENERATION.
 4. "From these turn away....
 5. *"But abide thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work."* vs 14-17.
-