

Second Timothy

Paul's Last Words

Bad People

In The Last Days

II Timothy 3:1-9

Lesson Eight

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Paul's Last Words

Bad People—II Timothy 3:1-9

The first thing we should remember, as we begin this lesson, is that Paul thought that he was living in the “last days.” Paul expected Jesus to return very soon. When he refers to the last days, he is talking about his own time. However, it refers to last times whenever they are.

Read II Timothy 3:1-9

Wow, what a list of terrible sins!* What an attack on bad people! Let's look at this list and get a feel for what it really means. Paul mentions:

Lovers of themselves. This is worse than being self-centered, it is putting everything about you before anything else. It is total dedication to your own happiness.

Lovers of money. As we have said, Paul wrote this letter when Timothy was in Ephesus. Ephesus was called “The treasure-house of the ancient world.” Some think that the apostle John was thinking of Ephesus when he wrote, “The merchants weep and mourn...no one buys their cargos...of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles...made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, from iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, or incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep. horses and carriages...” (The Revelation 18:11-13) These people knew what wealth was, and how tempting it was to make it the center of their life.

Boastful/proud. These two go together. They are people who are arrogant; people who just can't seem to get enough of telling how great they are. Not one without the other.

Abusive. This describes people who are quick with the insult. The feelings of others are unimportant to them.

Disobedient of parents. This breaks one of the Ten Commandments.

Ungrateful. These people think they don't owe anyone anything...not even God.

Unholy. This is a person who has no respect for God.

Without love. This refers to a person who doesn't care for, has no affection for, family.

Unforgiving. These people don't only refuse to make peace, but stir up hatred and conflict.

Slanderous. This word comes from the word from which we get devil. They are against you. They kill people's reputations.

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Practical Advice—II Timothy 2:20-26

Without self-control. They are slaves to their own desires.

Brutal. They hate good. They enjoy being out of control. Savages.

Not lovers of good. They hang out with the rest of these bad people, making trouble.

Treacherous. They will sell you out. They have no love for the truth.

Rash. This is recklessness. Acting without thinking. Also, foolish thinking.

Conceited. Swell-headed. A Christian is a follower of Jesus, the “meek and lowly in heart.”

Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. They worship pleasure rather than God.

Having a form of godliness but denying its power. They may go to church, but get nothing from it. Their lives, certainly their spiritual lives, are not affected by teaching and worship.

Paul said, “Have nothing to do with them.” Association with such people may invite others to approve of them, and it can certainly harm a Christian who is trying to do the right thing.

He then warns about those who would take advantage of helpless or naive women. And, comparing them to men who gave Moses a hard time, (Exodus 7:9ff), called them men with depraved, evil minds.

He finishes this paragraph with the thought that sin cannot win. In the end, righteousness, the will of God, is going to win. Yes there will be times when it seems as if evil is going to win. But, there will be a final day when God's perfect will is made known, and He has the victory.

For us, this all means that we should be very careful with whom we associate; very careful about who our friends are, because God will hold us all accountable for our actions.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Scripture Memory: “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.” II Timothy 2:19b

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to recognize evil and avoid those who do evil.

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Student Worksheet

Practical Advice—II Timothy 2:20-26

-What are the eighteen things Paul lists as terrible sins?

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| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |
| 5. | 6. |
| 7. | 8. |
| 9. | 10. |
| 11. | 12. |
| 13. | 14. |
| 15. | 16. |
| 17. | 18. |

-What did Paul say the Christian should do about relationship with such persons?

-Sin cannot _____. In the end, righteousness, the _____ of God, is going to win. God gets the victory.

Scripture Memory: "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness. II Timothy 2:19b

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.