In The Last Days

Joshua Creel · 2 Timothy 3:1–4:8

INTRODUCTION

- Realize this, that in the last days, difficult times will come.
- The last days of the New Testament scriptures would seem to typify all the days of Christ's people.
- But the focus of the passage is not just about describing the last days, which he does do. It is how to live in those last days.

1 Look to the Right Examples

2 Timothy 3:10–11; 1 Corinthians 11:1

- Timothy, you have seen how I have lived. You have seen my faith, my conduct, my love, in contrast to these men that you were to avoid.
- It doesn't matter if you're teaching the right thing. If you're not living the right way, you don't need to be followed.
- Does this person I'm thinking of follow apostolic teaching? Does he know what the Bible says? And then what about his way of life?
- Paul will say this in other places, like 1 Corinthians chapter 11 and verse 1 imitate me as I imitate Christ.
- Not everyone who calls himself a brother or sister is an example worth to be followed.

2 Hold Few Illusions About the World

2 Timothy 3:12–13

- Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus, will be persecuted.
- But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- This world, by its way of living, has shown itself opposed to God.
- Because you go into it with knowledge. You go into it expecting. You go into it prepared.

3 Hold On to the Word

2 Timothy 3:14–17; 2 Timothy 1:5

- You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing them from whom you have learned them.
- From childhood, you have known the sacred writings, which were able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus.
- Scripture's point is to bring you to Jesus. Show you who Jesus is, show you that you're in sin, and here is the way you can be forgiven of those sins.
- It doesn't matter how dark the days are. It doesn't matter how evil men get. It doesn't matter how few are still faithful. The word of God never changes.

- You need something to cling to that does not change. And the word of God, my friend, does not change.

4 Preach the Word

2 Timothy 4:1–5

- Everything so far has been defensive. But we also have a responsibility to others who are living in these dark days.
- Preach the word. Be ready in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction.
- Brethren, if we are living in dark days, then we need to be light.
- Men will always go to hear those who are saying what they want to hear. The gospel isn't that. The gospel is God's word that you need to hear.

5 Take the Torch and Pass It On

2 Timothy 4:6–8

- I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.
- Paul said to Timothy, You teach and commit these things to other faithful men.
- You're part of a chain, Timothy. Take the torch from me, preach the word and pass the word on.
- You are in that chain. Going all the way back to the days of Jesus.
- The gospel's bigger than me. The kingdom is much bigger than me. But the beauty of Christianity is that God has made all of us, as insignificant as we may be, a part of it.

THE CHALLENGE

We invite you this morning to take advantage of the word that God gave. That you too, in your faith, you trusting in your God that He will save, be baptized so that the blood of Christ may forgive you of your sins.

MY NOTES