



MESSAGE: DAVID SUNDMAN

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: JULY 18, 2021

Living Faithfully in Evil Times: Part 1
2 Timothy 3:1-9

Expect periods of distress from “wolves in sheep’s clothing”

1) Accept periods of difficulty to come

2 Tim. 3:1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

2 Peter 3:1-3 ... I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

2) Identify opponents of the truth by their fruit (2-5)

2 Tim. 3:2-5 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** heartless, unappeasable, slandering, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4** treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power...

2 Timothy 3:10-11 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings... yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

Keep clear of these doomed predators and their ways

1) Completely disassociate from any such disqualified people

2 Tim. 3:6 ... Avoid such people. **6** For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, **7** always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. **8** Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.

2 Peter 2: 12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, **13** suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. **14** They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! **15** Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray.

2) Be encouraged: their foolishness will be obvious in time

2 Tim. 3:9 *But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.*

Ex.9:10-11 *And Moses threw [the soot] in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast. 11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils came upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians.*

Reflection & Discussion

1. What comfort do you draw from Paul's flat acknowledgement of times of trouble from "wolves", especially in light that *"they will not get far, for their folly will be plain to all."*?
2. How does this "heads up" from Paul simplify your understanding of how to live faithfully in this period of history?
3. How can healthy discipleship enable you to effectively identify and avoid predatory false teachers?

SONGS

"Grateful" - Stefan Green, Chris Brown, Matthew Ntlele, and Steven Furtick

"We Praise You" - Brandon Lake, Brian Johnson, Matt Redman, and Phil Wickha

"Way Maker" - Leeland

"In Christ Alone" - Stuart Townend

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$40,134.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$895,643.89
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$987,616.00