

Lesson 10 – IN THE LAST DAYS (2) 2 Timothy 3:5-9

(3:5) – Paul continues here instructing Timothy on the evil that will be predominant in the world among the enemies of Christ in the last days which are the days of the New Covenant between Christ’s first advent and His second coming. Here he writes that unregenerate men will be found **“HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT DENYING THE POWER THEREOF.”** The word “form” shows that this is the way they appear to others, but it is an outward show only (cf. Matt. 23:25-28; Rom. 10:1-3). Man by nature does not know what true “godliness” is, so he certainly cannot recognize godliness. True “godliness” refers to a genuine spirituality that comes to us by power of the Holy Spirit in the new birth and involves submission to God’s will, first in submission to God’s way of salvation that drives us to Christ Who is the very mystery of godliness (1 Tim. 3:16). True godliness begins with realizing that we are saved and made acceptable unto God by His grace based on the glorious Person and finished righteousness of Christ imputed to us. It involves a saving knowledge of our standing before God in Christ as those who before the foundation of the world were chosen of God and given to Christ as our Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, Life-Giver, and Preserver; that we are forgiven of all our sins based on His blood (death) for us. It involves God-given faith in Christ, repentance of dead works and idolatry, and persevering in the faith, all by God’s grace, goodness, and power.

Those who deny “the power” of godliness deny the Scriptures (God’s Word) which in the power of the Holy Spirit is a large part of this power of godliness. They profess to believe Christ but deny the power and efficacy of His righteousness, His sacrifice, and His intercession to secure the salvation and final glory of all His sheep for whom He died and arose again. They talk of the Holy Spirit but deny His sovereign, effectual, and irresistible power to regenerate, sanctify, convince of sin, and teach. They profess to believe and teach the Gospel, but their gospel is a false message of salvation conditioned on sinners and not on Christ alone. Paul tells Timothy, **“FROM SUCH TURN AWAY.”** Have no fellowship with them (2 John 9-11).

(3:6) – **“FOR OF THIS SORT ARE THEY WHICH CREEP INTO HOUSES, AND LEAD CAPTIVE SILLY WOMEN LADEN WITH SINS, LED AWAY WITH DIVERS LUSTS,”** – Such false teachers work after the manner of their father, Satan (cf. John 8:44). As Satan attacked the woman and not the man (the subtle tempter beguiled Eve and not Adam), so these, his instruments, work themselves into the affection of the weaker vessel (1 Tim. 2:14). Just about every cult, sect and free-will denomination or church is dominated by women – silly, easily influenced women who like to be told that they are religious, holy and righteous, who judge and act according to emotion and not truth. They reject the Gospel of God’s free grace and mercy for sinners in Christ, for they are full of the sins of self-righteousness and are led forth by a lust for new teachers, new

doctrines, and new heights of personal glory. The exaltation of Mary and the effeminate influence of Catholicism has led women to think that they are morally good and superior to men who are bad (Rom. 3:10-19). The truth is that by nature all men and women are fallen in Adam and born totally depraved (spiritually dead, ignorant, and with no will to believe and serve the true and living God). Women are no closer to attaining righteousness by their works or wills than men.

(3:7) – “EVER LEARNING, AND NEVER ABLE TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.” Both the teachers and the captives of their humanistic religions are always learning driven by restless minds and curiosity, but never able to come to and settle on the knowledge of the truth in Christ. Their hearts are not established with grace. They learn about missions, prophecy, heaven, standards of morality and gifts of the Spirit, but never how God can be just and justify the ungodly or true righteousness in Christ. They reform but never repent; they pray, but never plead for mercy; they testify, but never turn to Christ and His righteousness imputed; they boast of their faithfulness to religion, but never bow to the lordship of Christ. Without apology, I declare that where women reign in religion, they ruin! (1 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 14:34)

(3:8) – “NOW AS JANNES AND JAMBRES WITHSTOOD MOSES, SO DO THESE ALSO RESIST THE TRUTH: MEN OF CORRUPT MINDS, REPROBATE CONCERNING THE FAITH.” We need not be surprised when adversaries rise up against our Lord to oppose His Gospel of grace. Moses likewise had those who opposed him when he went to Egypt to deliver Israel. Jannes and Jambres were the magicians put forward by Pharaoh. Satan will use any vessel, any trick and any method to discredit the Gospel. False teachers have corrupt minds with neither the glory of God nor the good of men as their goal, but are counterfeits and have no understanding of the doctrines of grace and saving faith!

(3:9) – “BUT THEY SHALL PROCEED NO FURTHER: FOR THEIR FOLLY SHALL BE MANIFEST UNTO ALL MEN, AS THEIRS ALSO WAS.” The false teachers may grow worse and worse in error; they may proceed to more ungodliness and deceive many, but they shall not deceive the elect (Mark 13:22, 23). They shall proceed no further than the magicians in Egypt. Though they did lying wonders, deceived the Egyptians and caused Pharaoh to harden his heart, Israel was delivered! The folly of all followers of false religions shall someday become obvious to everyone, as was that of the magicians. The destruction at the Red Sea glorified God's salvation, but it also revealed the folly of all who opposed Him!