

SERIES:

SUBJECT: Projecting The Conditions

READING: **2Ti 3:1-7** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Introduction:

Having now proven that the written word of God is accurate and true historically, scientifically, and archeologically; we turn to what it says about conditions of the world nearer to the last times.

During Jesus' earthly ministry He was asked often about the signs of His coming and the end of the world.

Mat 24:3 *And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*

After giving them a verbal synopsis of future events through the tribulation period.

He then lists some general signs that were to help us know when the beginning of the end of the world will come;

Mat 24:5 *For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.* Over the centuries more that

30 people claimed in some way or another to be the coming Son of God. A couple on names you might know;

- Sun Myung Moon (1920–2012), founder and leader of the Unification Church established in Seoul, South Korea, who considered himself the Second Coming of Christ, but not Jesus himself.
- David Koresh (Vernon Wayne Howell) (1959–1993) the wacko from Waco!
- And perhaps the most current **Apollo Quiboloy** says "He is God's Appointed Son," and the completion of salvation.
 - His followers say; "He is just an ordinary man like us, but he was called, he was chosen, he was anointed and appointed to become the Son of God in these last days to lead us back to the perfect will of the Father.
 - He now reigns as the King of the New Creation, of the the New Heavens and the New Earth.
 - Now, he is the Audible voice of the Father, who only preaches about the Will of the Father.
 - **Claims** that New Jerusalem Davao City is where people should come to find salvation, eternal life, and to find an audience with the Father.
 - **Says**; "Many people do not realize that yet. The enormity of it is just too glorious **that is why you have been given faith because you do not have to understand it, just believe.**

Jesus then sets before His followers this fact; Mat 24:36 *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

Following that he gives a sign that introduces the general condition of the world that indicates the Rapture of the Church may be near:

Mat 24:37-39 *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (38) For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, (39) And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

Remember the Rapture comes when the world is living like the days of Noah!

Consider this first

I. THE MORAL CLIMATE OF THOES DAYS!

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

a. These were not good days! They were wicked days;

Gen 6:5 *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

- i. To those living in Noah's day it seemed normal *they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage,* the wickedness had become normal!

- ii. God viewed the moral conditions as abnormal and purposed to destroy the entire human race:

*Gen 6:5-7 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. (7) **And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.***

- b. The behavior in the days of Noah were not predicted like those we are facing today they are a reflection of the wickedness that dwells by nature in every human heart.

THE MORAL CLIMATE OF THOES DAYS compared to..

II. THE MORAL CLIMATE OF THESE DAYS!

- a. The moral decline we witness today began after God established moral behavior for His chosen people Israel and revealed in the Ten Commandments and the moral behavior established on them by God.
 - i. The Bible which we have established in our series on the end times is the very word of God and speaks with divine authority on all matters of human behavior including morality!
 - ii. Biblical Morality is the distinction between right and wrong according to the creator and sustainer of the universe. **Morals deal with behaviors as well as motives.**

- iii. Morals differ some among cultures, and there are morals that are relative, i.e., dependent upon situations and context.
 - i. For example, people drive on different sides of the street in different countries.
 - ii. Bowing is morally acceptable in one culture, and kissing the cheek is in another.
- iv. But there are other morals which are universally true and based on god's revelation. For example,
 - i. It is morally wrong to murder.
 - ii. It is morally wrong to torture babies merely for your personal pleasure.
 - iii. It is morally wrong to steal, lie, have sex out of wedlock
- v. Subjects of morality vary but deal mainly with "oughts" of person-to-person relationships as well as person to animal and person to environment.
 - i. Therefore, subjects of morality include marriage, discipline, honesty, business transactions, contracts, child-rearing, etc.
 - ii. The Morality of God and God's people today are spelled out in the biblical laws and precepts God set forth for His people beginning with Israel.
- vi. **Wickedness today SEEMS NORMAL because of the awful departure from true morality and righteous living as set forth by God the creator!**

- i. **For example**, until 1973 homosexuality was diagnosed as **an aberrant sexual behavior!**

The DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) is the most widely used diagnostic reference book utilized by mental health professionals in the United States.

It's a manual by which all diagnostic codes are derived for diagnosis and treatment - every single physician (an estimated 850,000*) in the United States refers to this book in order to code for a diagnoses. *In plain English, what does this mean? It means that for over 30 years physicians have been prevented from properly diagnosing homosexuality as an aberrant behavior and thus, cannot, recommend a treatment for these individuals.*

Prior to that time, homosexuality had been treated as a mental disorder under section "302. Sexual Deviations" in the DSM-II. Section 302 said, in part: *"This category is for individuals whose sexual interests are directed primarily towards objects other than people of the opposite sex, toward sexual acts...performed under bizarre circumstances...Even though many find their practices distasteful, they remain unable to substitute normal sexual behavior for them."* **Homosexuality was listed as the first sexual deviation under 302.** *Once that diagnostic code for homosexuality was removed, physicians, including psychiatrists, have been prevented from diagnosing homosexuality as a mental disorder for more than three decades.*

- ii. **This and decisions like this have been precipitated by** an exponential decline in Biblical moral behavior beginning in the 60's concerning
 1. Sexual behavior outside of marriage,
 2. Followed by AIDS,
 3. Followed by a move to make homosexuals a protected class under civil rights laws

4. On the heels of that a move that ultimately resulted in same sex marriage becoming a “Civil Right,
5. Right down to today when **gender birth has given way to gender choice** and that shower room and restroom choice is based on the gender one may identify with at a particular time.

b. Today’s Moral decline was prophesized in the New Testament Scriptures;

2Ti 3:1-7 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- i. **They Are Dangerous Days** - Paul describes the last days as "*perilous times*".
 - i. The word perilous means, "*difficult, troublesome, trying, uneasy, hard, violent, threatening and dangerous.*"
 - ii. While these characteristics have marked all time periods of history to some extent, they are to be intensified in the last days.

iii. You see, we are living in an age when it is dangerous for men and women to live for God.

1. Those who practice righteousness are called intolerant, bigoted, narrow minded, anti-social and are labeled dangerous.
2. While those who practice deviant, sinful lifestyles **are praised and labeled heroes by society.** These are indeed very dangerous days!

- ii. **They Are Determined Days** - We may wonder why days such as these might factor into God's plan for the world.
- i. While God is not the author of evil, He has determined to abandon sinful man to his choice of a life of wickedness.
 - ii. The condition of humanity and society in the last days is absolute proof that man, **left to himself, will ruin everything he touches!**
 - iii.* The fact that man ruins that which he thinks he controls is manifested in the decline in the number of Churches who are still *contending for the faith once delivered to the saints!*
 - iv. Outside of that dwindling number are churches “Adapting” to **perilous times;** giving the practices once denounced by God men and women an appearance of **“Normal Church Activities!”**

- v. You see, natural man, instead of getting better spiritually, is actually growing more and more wicked! **Daniel 12:10** tells us that "*the wicked shall do wickedly.*"

iii. They are predicted Days; notice the word SHALL

For men SHALL be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Let's take a few minutes to walk through this list of attitudes and actions that will mark those living in the last days. **Paul said they were coming!**

- i. **Lovers of Self** – *Selfish, intent on one's on interests* – They are the center of their own universe and don't mess with those things that revolve around them!
- ii. **Covetous** – *Lovers of money* (God's plan is that we worship God, love other people and use things.)
 - 1. When our priorities become skewed, we start to worship ourselves, ignore God, **love things and use other people.**
 - 2. That's world's promise and man's self-proclaimed purpose!
- iii. **Boasters** – *Empty pretenders* (Windbags!)

1. Brag about what they have and have done!
2. Set themselves up as the be all and end all of other people's lives!

iv. **Proud** – *An over estimate of one's worth* –

Pro 16:18 *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

v. **Blasphemers** – *Given to defiant and bitter words.*

1. These are they who speak evil of God, His children and His work!
2. They think nothing of using their tongues to speak evil against everyone and everything.

iii. **Disobedient To Parents** – This rejection of Christian values reaches into the home.

1. Discipline has gone out the window!
2. If children will not respect and obey their parents, who will they respect?
3. If there is no obedience, respect and loyalty in the home, why should we expect to find it in the class room or in society in general?

iv. **Unthankful** – Remember this found in Rom 1:21 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their*

imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened.

1. Right next to the sin of failing to glorify God is the sin of being **Unthankful!**
2. No sense of gratitude for anything they possess.

v. **Unholy – Wicked – this word means profane.**

1. This is state of heart when men lose all regard for decency and shame.
2. People are governed by their passions and they are blind to *modesty, decency, purity and righteousness!*
3. The bottom line is that men will hold nothing as being sacred anymore!
(Are we there yet?)

vi. **Without Natural Affection** – Describes a breakdown of natural affection when they get in the way of the sin they want to practice!

1. Infidelity in a marriage!
2. Abortion of a child to free themselves from responsibility!
3. Throwing a friend under the bus to protect yourself!

vii. **Trucebreakers** – This refers to those who will not keep their promises.

1. Our political class has made a mockery by promising what people want when they know in their heart that what they are promising they cannot give!
2. A man's word is no longer his bond! It also speaks to people who will not try to agree; we call it “**gridlock**”
3. This is a picture of those who are unyielding and must, at all costs, have their own way.

viii. **False Accusers** – *Slanderers*.

1. These people do everything in their power to destroy the good name and reputation of another.
2. Those who engage in destroying the good name of another person are guilty of engaging the devil's work!

ix. **Incontinent** – *Without self-control or the ability to discipline one's life.* "If it feels good, do it! Why should I deny myself the little pleasures of life?"

x. **Fierce** – *untamed, savage, brutal* – People will be controlled by their baser instincts.

xi. **Despisers Of Those That Are Good** – In a world where good is evil and evil is good,

those who stand for right are a slap in the face of the evil doer.

- xii. **Traitors** – People who betray others and break friendship just to get their way. (Ill. Just watch the presidential race unfold!)
- xiii. **Heady** – *Reckless, rash, acting without reasonable thought.* This is a lifestyle that does as it pleases without regard for the consequences.
- xiv. **High-minded** – *These people feel that they have no need for God or others we saw this yesterday door knocking when Catherine ask a man why he stopped going to church. He basically said God had nothing to offer him!*
- xv. **Lovers Of Pleasure More Than Lovers Of God** – Those who love the pleasures of the world more than God.
- xvi. 2Ti 3:5 *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. "form of godliness."* The word "*form*" means a "*semblance*."
 - 1. 94% of Americans claim to believe in God.
 - 2. Over 70% claim that they have had a "*born again*" experience.
 - 3. There is a glut of churches in our society.
 - 4. One doesn't have to travel very far to find a church that embraces any doctrinal slant you want to believe.

In his previous letter to timothy Paul wrote these words; 1Ti 3:15
But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to
behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the
living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**

5. Rather than being the pillar and ground of the truth the trend is to embrace worldliness and call it godliness!

Conclusion:

2Ti 3:1 ***This know also, that in the last days perilous times SHALL COME.***

The *SHALL COME* has longed turned into *the last days perilous times!*

Tens of thousands have been swept away from biblical morality and biblical values.

The contemporary church has been transformed into an entertainment industry with made by God stamped on it!

Paul's Counsel and mine is "*from such turn away.*"

What we are to turn too is made clear 2Ti 3:12-17

- **Understand that we will be persecuted;** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- **Prepared for things to get worse;(13) But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**
- **Pledge your allegiance to God and His word;** (14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; (15) And that from a child

thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Let me close with this quote from Charles Spurgeon. May his goal become ours! "*Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it. ** It is our solemn conviction that where there can be no real spiritual communion there should be no pretense of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin. As soon as I saw, or thought I saw, that error had become firmly established, I did not deliberate, but quitted the body at once. Since then my counsel has been "Come out from among them." I have felt that no protest could be equal to that of distinct separation from known evil. That I might not stultify my testimony I have cut myself clear of those who err from the faith, and even from those who associate with them. Cost what it may to separate ourselves from those who separate themselves from the truth of God is not alone our liberty but our duty.*"

Charles Spurgeon leaves no room to for restoration of those whose bent is away from **the faith once delivered to the saints! Neither can we!**

Invitation:

What can be done?

The lost are to receive the Gospel of Christ where all restoration to God must begin!

For the saved and those caught up in the contemporary church movement to recognize that error follows on the heels of the world and its philosophies being allowed into the Church of Jesus Christ;

Rev 3:14-18 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; (15) I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (16) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (17) Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (18) **I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**