

Bible Basics

9 November 2024 – Session 8

Guidance for difficult
times:

‘In the last days difficult
times shall be there’

(2 Timothy 3:1)



What marks the last days

(See 2 Timothy)

Within the Christian profession (2:20):

- Paul's doctrine is rejected (1:15)
- Sound teaching is unwanted (4:3)
- There is an 'itching ear' for what is new (4:3)

('Evil communications corrupt good manners' 1 Cor. 15:33)

What marks the last days

(See 2 Timothy)

Nominal Christians living for 'self'

- Lovers of pleasure more than of God (3:4)

There is no inward reality

- Have a form of piety while denying its power (3:5)

There is no spiritual discernment:

- What is counterfeit is received as genuine (3:8)
- Many are led astray by 'wicked men and juggling imposters' (3:13)

Our resources in the last days?

(See 2 Timothy)

- **The Word of God** (3:14-15)
- **The Spirit of God** (1:7, 14)
- **The Grace of God** (2:1)

Compare Acts 20:32:

‘I commit you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up...’



‘Yet the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, [The] Lord knows those that are his; and, Let every one who names the name of [the] Lord withdraw from iniquity’ (2 Timothy 2:19)

- The foundation on which God is building is stable
- The Lord knows everyone that is His. That is not the issue here
- Our responsibility is to ‘withdraw from iniquity’
- Iniquity is ‘a condition of not being right... with God according to the standard of His holiness and righteousness’ (W. E. Vine)

‘ But in a great house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also wooden and earthen; and some to honour, and some to dishonour’

(2 Timothy 2:20)

- We cannot withdraw from the ‘great house’ because it represents the whole circle of Christian profession
- We are to withdraw from a Christian company where iniquity is tolerated BUT
- Only after every effort has been made to rouse the collective conscience of the company concerned

‘If therefore one shall have purified himself from these, [in separating himself from them], he shall be a vessel to honour, sanctified, serviceable to the Master, prepared for every good work’ (2 Timothy 2:21)

- Only as separated to the Lord from what dishonours Him are we practically set apart for His pleasure and use
- This illustrates the statement that ‘Separation from evil is God’s principle of unity’
- We’ll look briefly at three passages where separation is expressly called for and any prior appeal to the conscience would be useless

The Call to be Separate

(Revelation 18:4)

**‘And I heard another voice out of the heaven saying,
Come out of her, my people, that ye have not fellowship
in her sins, and that ye do not receive of her plagues’**

‘This applies wherever we see the system to be Babylon, and
our sense of her iniquities is pressed upon the conscience’
(JND, Synopsis)

Great Babylon: Revelation 17 & 18

The great harlot... I sit a Queen and I am not a widow (17:1, 18:7): **Gross unfaithfulness to Christ**

The many waters where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues (17:1, 15): **A world-wide reach**

Drunk with the blood of the saints (17:6) **A persecutor**

Clothed in purple and scarlet with ornaments of gold and precious stones and pearls (17:4): **Oppulent**

The Call to be Separate

(2 Corinthians 6:14-17)

Concerning 'church' fellowship with unbelievers:

'Be not diversely yoked with unbelievers; for what... agreement of God's temple with idols? for ye are [the] living God's temple...'

'Wherefore come out from the midst of them, and be separated, saith [the] Lord, and touch not [what is] unclean, and I will receive you...'

The Call to be Separate

(Hebrews 13:12-13)

‘Wherefore also Jesus, that he might sanctify the people by his own blood, suffered without the gate: therefore let us go forth

TO HIM

without the camp, bearing his reproach’

- The Camp is firstly Judaism
- But much of Christendom has ‘Judaised’

What does it mean to Judaize?

(Hebrews 13:12-13)

Human Arrangement

- Priesthood and laity
- Pope/ Archbishops
- Consecrated buildings
- Religious Ceremony
- Sensuous

Scriptural Principle

- All believers are priests
- No head on earth
- Christ's Name
- Simplicity
- By faith

What does it mean to Judaize?

(Hebrews 13:12-13)



‘If therefore one shall have purified himself from these, [in separating himself from them], he shall be a vessel to honour, sanctified, serviceable to the Master, prepared for every good work’ (2 Timothy 2:21)

- We have seen the call to separate from human systems of religion and unbelievers.
- But what about a meeting where all are believers?
- Can a believer be a vessel to dishonour?
- Is unjudged iniquity in a believer to be ignored?

‘If therefore one shall have purified himself from these, [in separating himself from them], he shall be a vessel to honour, sanctified, serviceable to the Master, prepared for every good work’ (2 Timothy 2:21)

- Here it is a call to separation wherever there is iniquity AND the company concerned refuses to judge it
- The example given is that of Hymenaeus and Philetus
- After mentioning them this section begins, ‘YET the firm foundation of God stands...’
- They were teaching that the resurrection had taken place already and overthrew the faith of some

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- Hymenaeus is mentioned in the first epistle (1 Tim. 1:20)
- He was a believer whom Paul had delivered to Satan, that he might be taught by discipline not to blaspheme
- Unbelievers do not need to be delivered to Satan; they are already in his hands
- To continue to associate with such is defiling, hence the call to ‘purify himself from these’

Six Active Verbs

- **Shun** (keep away from) ‘profane vain babblings’ (2:16)
- **Depart/Withdraw** ‘from iniquity’ (2:19)
- **Purge/Purify himself** (cleanse thoroughly) ‘from these’ (vessels to dishonour. 2:21)
- **Flee (run away from)** ‘youthful lusts’ (2:22)
- **Follow/ Pursue** ‘righteousness, faith, love, peace (2:22)
- **Avoid** (to refuse, decline) ‘foolish and senseless questionings’ (2:23)

**‘But youthful lusts flee, and pursue righteousness,
faith, love, peace, with those that call upon the
Lord out of a pure heart’ (2 Timothy 2:22)**

This is a step of faith taken
individually

‘Calling on the Lord’ reflects
felt weakness

‘Out of a pure heart’ shows
the only motive is to please
the Lord by obeying the
Scriptures



**‘But youthful lusts flee, and pursue righteousness,
faith, love, peace, with those that call upon the
Lord out of a pure heart’ (2 Timothy 2:22)**

Where the step is rightly taken one can expect to find others similarly exercised and

With them one is to actively pursue:

Righteousness. What is right in God’s sight and so consistent with revealed truth

Faith. The link with God. Everything is done in dependence upon and obedience to Him

**‘But youthful lusts flee, and pursue righteousness,
faith, love, peace, with those that call upon the
Lord out of a pure heart’ (2 Timothy 2:22)**

Love. To God and to ALL His children
(Hereby know we that we love the children of
God, when we love God and keep his commandments.’
1 John 5:2)

Peace. ‘So then let us pursue the things which tend to
peace, and things whereby one shall build up another’
(Rom. 14:19)

The spirit that is to mark us

Contrition

‘But to this man will I look: to the afflicted and contrite in spirit, and who trembleth at my word’

(Isaiah 66:1-2)



The spirit that is to mark us

Confession

‘And... the children of Israel were assembled with fasting... and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers’

(Nehemiah 9:1-2)

The spirit that is to mark us

Confidence

‘In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence; and his children shall have a place of refuge’
(Proverbs 14:26)

