

A Day Such as This

2 Timothy 3: 1-5

We have read a passage of Scripture that has been the topic of discussion and debate for thousands of years. No doubt, most of you have read this portion of Scripture and have even heard it preached many times. It seems as if we have heard it so much and so long that we have grown complacent and insensitive to its message. The Christian will admit they believe the Lord is coming again, but few are living as if they really believe it. That day may be closer than we think.

It is a day that the church has anticipated for 2,000 years. Shortly after our Lord's ascension, the apostles were already looking for the end times when Jesus would return. [1 Pet.4:7 – But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.](#) [2 Pet.3:12 – Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?](#) Peter was certainly looking for that day in his day. As John penned down the Revelation he too was looking for and anticipating that day. [Rev.22:20 – He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.](#)

Clearly this is a day the church anticipates, but few seem to sense the urgency and closeness of that day. I want to take a few moments to discover what the Bible reveals concerning the last days. As we move through these verses, I think you will have to admit that prophecy is being fulfilled in our generation. Bro. Ralph Sexton Jr. stated, "There are people alive today who may never see the undertaker, but could meet the Upper-taker." Let's consider the [realities](#) of that time as we think on the thought: [A Day Such as This](#).

I. The Reality of the Last Days (1) – [This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.](#)

A. They are Perilous Days – [In the last days perilous times shall come.](#) This has the idea of *troublesome; dangerous; fierce, being hard to bear*. Have you ever known a day with more trouble than the day in which we are living? Our world has changed dramatically in the past decade. Trouble abounds on every hand. The peace and serenity that much of the world enjoyed has been replaced with fear and dread. Life has become difficult for all. We are living among the most troubled days we have ever known.

B. They are Predictable Days – There isn't a one of us who ought to be surprised that we have found ourselves in a day such as this. The Word of God declares these days would come. Paul told young Timothy, [This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.](#) The Holy Spirit led Paul to pen these words for Timothy as well as those who read and embrace the Scriptures.

- We often stand amazed at the condition of our world, but we were told that these days would come. The stage is being set right now for the return of Jesus our Lord. It is so close that I am convinced that we could hear the Trump of God sound at any moment.

- Notice [V.13 – But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived](#). Things are not going to get better. They will wax worse and worse as we see the day approaching. [2 Thes.2:3 – Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition](#). Are we not seeing a great falling away in our day? Churches across the land are closing their doors because no one is there to fill the pews. Young people are exiting the church at an alarming rate. It is time to wake out of sleep and sense the nearness of that day.

C. They are Providential Days – Many today may feel as if things are spiraling out of control. It is true that the depravity of mankind has sunk to new depths; our global financial system is in shambles; the world is at war with terrorism and drug cartels. But could I say to you that these are not days that have just happened. We are not where we are by the ignorance or lack of man. We are here because the providential hand of God has orchestrated these events in preparation for His return! This is no strange turn of events that simply brought misfortune to us.

- God is setting the stage and making things ready for His return. These things must come to pass. I certainly don't enjoy the difficulty of our day, but I am excited that the time is drawing near for the Lord's return. He could step out on the clouds of glory at any moment and call for His bride.

II. The Rebellion of the Last Days [\(2-5a\)](#)

A. The Desire of Men [\(2-4\)](#) – As we look at the desire and actions of mankind in the last days, you will see a resemblance of our day. Notice:

1. Lovers of their own selves – *Selfish; intent only on one's interest.*

2. Covetous – *Loving money and material gain.*

3. Boasters – *Empty Pretenders, bragging about their accomplishments with no recognition or regard for others, being their own man.*

4. Proud – *Showing one's self above others; literally despising others and treating them with contempt or hatred.*

5. Blasphemers – *Speaking evil; slanderous; reproachful; evil.* These are defiant to the Word, the work, and the witness of God.

6. Disobedient to Parents – We are seeing the most rebellious generation known to man. There is no respect for authority at all.

7. Unthankful – *Ungracious for anything.* We are blessed beyond measure and yet most never acknowledge any gratitude. Most feel they have earned and deserve more blessing!

8. Unholy – *Wicked and profane.* (Illus. the condition of society.)

9. Without Natural Affection – This has the idea of *a breakdown within the home.* The natural affections are absent, (abortion, incest, sodomy, etc.)

10. Trucebreakers – *Hostile; no desire to live peaceably; those who must have their own way regardless of the cost or obligation to others.*

11. False Accusers – *Slanderer; those who attack the reputation of others.* This comes from the Greek word *diabolos*, from which we get our word devil. These are the devil's advocates.

12. Incontinent – *One who lives without self-control or restraint.* (Society)

13. Fierce – *Savage; unable to be tamed.*

14. Despisers of those that are Good – *Opposed to goodness, godliness, those of the faith.*

15. Traitors – *Betrayers.* No loyalty except to themselves.

16. Heady – *"Falling headlong," rash, reckless.*

17. Highminded – *"To raise a smoke," proud; puffed up; filled with conceit.*

B. The Display of Men (5a) – [Having a form of godliness.](#) Would you not agree that we are seeing this fulfilled in our day? Many want to wear religion on their sleeve, but it is just a façade, a pretentious form that does not exist.

- The church is filled with those who attend services on Sunday, but live like the world throughout the week. There has been no change in their lives; they are simply going through a

form that is void of any depth or meaning. There is no sincerity. Hell will be filled with religious people who only possessed a form of godliness. If it doesn't remain on Monday, you are lacking!

C. The Denial of Men (5a) – [but denying the power thereof](#). These are those with no spiritual depth, filled with unbelief and rebellion. They do not expect God to do anything among them and even deny that He still has the power to do so.

- The modern church is there in our day. We have the mechanics of worship down to a science. We have our programs and preferences, but we have lost our power. The church is becoming an empty shell.
- To the world there is a form of godliness, but there is no power in our day. We live in an age where lost folks can attend services on a regular basis and never feel any conviction. The average Christian has no testimony or witness because they have no power. Attending a worship service is more of a social experience than a spiritual one. Many feel as if they have done their good deed for the week, but there is no transforming power in their lives!

III. The Responsibility of the Last Days (5b) – [from such turn away](#). We may be living in the last days, but we must press on for the glory of God. Here Paul leaves instruction for the believer who is living in the last days. That instruction involves:

A. Our Discernment – [from such turn away](#). We must get to the place that we are able to recognize what is real and what is counterfeit. The average church member doesn't have enough spiritual discernment to know the difference. We must be able to identify the hindrances of our day. We must be close enough to the Lord to sense His direction and calling.

- Just because a fellow carries a black Bible, stands behind a pulpit and preaches is no sign he is called of God. Every church that has Baptist written on their sign is not filled with the Spirit and living for the Lord. Every person who claims to be a Christian has not met the Lord in salvation. We are responsible to know the difference.
- This will be a difficult task for those who are complacent and apathetic to the needs of our day. If we are to know what is real and what is not, we must have God on us and in our lives!

B. Our Division (5b) – **from such turn away**. These are strong words, but they are given for our good. The word **turn** means *to shun and avoid*. This is not a mere suggestion, but a command of God. I know that we must live among the world and we are to be a witness to the world, but we must not embrace the world. We are commanded to come out from among them and be a separate people. We cannot embrace the ideals nor give in to the demands of our society.

- Instead of the church being an influence among the world, the world has become the influence among the church. Many have lowered their standards and abandoned the ways of God to please the world. Many have made the church like the world in order to attract a crowd.
- We could have all the people in the community attending, but if we have not separated ourselves and have the power of God in the midst, then it will be nothing more than a social gathering. It is time for the church to turn away from the ways of the world and seek the ways of God. If you are genuinely concerned about the lost, that is the only way to reach them. If we are simply offering what they are getting in the world, there will be no difference.

Conclusion: I am convinced we are seeing this passage fulfilled before our very eyes. We are closer to the Lord's return than any other generation. If we are to endure in these last days, we must walk in fellowship with Christ. In Him is the only way that we can endure.

Has the Lord spoken to your heart? Do you desire more than a form of godliness that denies the power thereof? Do you want to ensure a life and a church that has the power of God? If so, why not come and seek Him?

If you have never been saved, I would encourage you to come unto Jesus if He has spoken to you. Once the trumpet sounds it will be too late.