

08/21/05 – “THE LAST DAYS”

The Christian church has been divided historically over **eschatology**...the last days and the return of Christ

The last days are from the time of Christ to the final consummation of the age – Every generation looks to His return

“...in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.” – 2 Tim. 3:1-6

MAN’S DILEMMA – GOD’S DIRECTION

Lovers of self – The greatest commandments– To love God and love your neighbor as yourself – Luke 10:27, James 2:8

Lovers of money – Money is not bad but is to be our servant for the purposes of God - “love of money is a root of all sorts of evil.” – 1 Tim. 6:10

Boastful – Our boast is in our God - “...clothe yourselves with humility toward one another.” – 1 Peter 5:5

Arrogant – God gives grace to the humble...resists the proud - Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” – Matthew 5:5

Revilers – Believing and accepting - “...you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God...” 1 Thess. 2:13

Disobedient to parents – The first commandment with a promise - “Children, obey your parents...Honor your father and mother” – Ephesians 6:1

Ungrateful – Be thankful for all God has done and will do - Overflowing with gratitude – Colossians 2:7

Unholy – Set your heart apart to God – Sanctification is a process - “For you shall be holy, for I am holy.” – 1 Peter 1:16

Unloving – God is love and commands us to love one another– Love is a greater virtue than faith and hope - “Love never fails...” 1 Cor. 13:8, 13

Irreconcilable – Be His ambassadors - “...who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” – 2 Cor. 5:18

Malicious Gossips – To speak the truth in love - Eph. 4:15 “...no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.” - James 3:8

Without self-control – Self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us – Galatians 5:23

Brutal – Brutality is the opposite of kindness and mercy – “And be kind to one another, tender-hearted...” – Ephesians 4:32

Haters of Good – “prove yourself zealous for what is good.”–1 Pet. 3:13–“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works”–Eph. 2:10

Treacherous –To walk by faith being faithful and trustworthy – “Laying aside falsehood, speak truth...” – Ephesians 4:25

Reckless – Be Prudent “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise.” – Ephesians 5:15

Conceited – Be humble rather than condescending in attitude and/or actions – “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit...” – Philippians 2:3

Lovers of pleasure – Living for pleasure and leisure will result in emptiness and ruin - “In Thy right hand are pleasures forever.” – Psalm 16:11

Not lovers of God – The first and greatest commandment - To love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul – Mark 12:30

A form of godliness denying its power – Religion without faith is empty - “...clouds without water... autumn trees without fruit...”Jude 12

Always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth– The greatest knowledge is to know God – Philippians 3:10

*“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” – 1 Corinthians 1:20-21 – **Receiving His wisdom by grace through faith for salvation** – Eph. 2:8-10*

CONFORMED TO HIS WORD

*“All Scripture is inspired (God-breathed) by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – **Bible is our standard of faith and practice** – Matthew 4:4,7,10*

1. **The Word of God is inspired...God’s letter to us to reveal Himself and His ways...it is to be studied and applied** – 2 Timothy 2:15

2. **His Word is profitable...teaching...instructing...a lamp unto feet, a light unto my path** – Psalm 119:105

3. **Correction from God is always for our good - The Word will reprove and correct you** – Jer. 10:24 – **He corrects us with love and justice**

4. **Training in righteousness** – *“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”* – Hebrews 12:11 – **Applying God’s truth is more than mere abstract knowledge**

5. **Adequate and equipped – Properly prepared to know and do will of God – Word rightly applied equips for service**

In the last days we have a message of love, hope and eternal life - May we faithfully represent His wonderful grace and truth