

II TIMOTHY 3; November 21; Perilous Times Facing Christians

ANALYSIS:

1. What is the name given to the last days which we in the church of Christ will face? _____
2. What will be the conduct and attitude of many religious people toward God's truth during the last days? _____
3. Which characteristics of the last days many be the most deceiving? _____
4. What did Paul say that all who live godly can expect in this life? _____
5. What are the listed benefits of inspired scripture? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

The inspiration and use of scripture is essential to our faith and walk with the Lord. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God ..."
Inspiration means God gave us His word. God breathed scripture as the real Author, using some 40 human penmen as His writers. Therefore, all scripture, Old and New Testament, is profitable ... for "doctrine" -- teaching/truth on every subject; "reproof" -- censure of wrong and sin; "correction" -- setting aright or reformation; "instruction in righteousness" -- disciplinary education in living right by God's standards. This makes the man of God, the pastor/teacher, complete with nothing lacking, perfectly equipped and furnished for all good works (vs 16-17).

While II Tim 3:16 is addressed to Timothy as a man of God, the value and benefits of scripture apply to every one of God's children. Paul counseled Timothy to "continue thou in the things which thou hast learned." Each of us should heed the same exhortation by daily reading, meditating, studying and obeying the Bible. And let us teach our children so they can be "wise unto salvation" (v 15), that is, be saved from sinful living, carnal christianity and false doctrine.

HELP:

1. Perilous times (v 1).
2. Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth, and these will resist the truth (vs 7-8).
3. There will be those "having a form of godliness," there will those "ever learning" through seminars, conferences, crusades, but not arriving at or accepting the truth (vs 5, 7).
4. To suffer persecution (v 12).
5. Doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect (vs 16-17).