

PERILOUS TIMES

By Keith Greer

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! {2 Timothy 3:1-5}

Paul warned Timothy that "**perilous times**" would come in the last days. When we read Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2: 17, it is evident we are living in these "**last days**". Do we live in such times today?

Look carefully at some of the things which Paul lists.

"**Lovers of themselves**". Today, men are only concerned about "number one"! We live in a "self-center" world. We are bombarded daily with the concept of "take care of number one!" Even the religion of men pamper to the individual to try and give them the type of worship and message they want – instead of seeking to please God. "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." {Galatians 1:10}

"**Lovers of money**". Materialism is a disease that has ruined many lives by the pursuit of riches and wealth. Fleeting and temporal. "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content." {1 Timothy 6: 6-8}.

"**Boasters, proud, and blasphemers**". It is not bad enough men will do evil, but will boast and be proud of such actions! By living in such lifestyles they blaspheme God's holy name!

"**Disobedient to parents**" When children begin to disrespect their parents, God is not well pleased. Such conduct under the Old Law resulted in stoning of the children! Ephesians 6:1-3.

"**Unloving, unforgiving, unholy, and unthankful.**" Can one not see this attitude evident in our day and time? People who take all credit for themselves. Not willing to have a forgiving spirit towards others. Do we give thanks to God always? Are men and women thankful for the wonderful things given to them by God? Acts 17:28

"**Without self-control**". Anger has caused many heartaches and tears in our country. Just look at the child abuse, domestic violence, and murders committed by family members. The church has also been affected. Many problems have occurred due to one or more brethren "losing their temper" and uttering angry words. James 1: 19

"**Lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God.**" What are two of the major problems, which have created much controversy over the past few years? Homosexuality and abortion. Men would

rather have their pleasure, than admit to the sins being committed! The Bible is too plain in both these areas to miss the point. Read Romans 1:18-32 and Galatians 5:21.

Do you ever think evil will overcome the good? How can we bring up children in such an ungodly world? Brethren, is this the only time the world has been in "perilous times"? I think not!

In the days of Noah, only eight souls were found faithful? During the time of the Roman Empire, unholy and ungodly lifestyles were the theme of the day! Look at the persecution of the early church. Surely all these can be correctly described as "perilous times".

So what is my point? Just stay the course and be the right influence for our Master! ***