

Monday, July 27, 2015 - Grievous Times

During the Christian age, the time in which we live, there will be those who defy God. They will profess to be godly; however, their lives will deny their profession of "faith."

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul describes men without God who have turned away from God. This is very similar to his description in Romans 1:29-31. They will be selfish, covetous, materialistic, boastful, haughty, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, irreverent, lacking in love for family, antagonistic, slanderers, having no self-control, savage, lacking in love for the good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, involved with foolish women and loving pleasure more than God. They will resist the truth and their foolishness will be self-evident. When men do not love God with all their hearts and do not seek his kingdom first, they become very sinful. Can anyone deny that in the last 50 years we have become a nation full of people that are lovers of self and the number goal is to become satisfied with the things of the world?

Paul warns Timothy, in great detail, about those whose real identity is born out in their actions. He tells Timothy these people are to be turned away from. The call is for all Christians is to "flee from the love of money, to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:11-12). We are warned that in doing so we would experience grievous times. These grievous times are going to be at intervals not just one continuing crisis.

Satan will use every tool at his disposal to wreak havoc upon Christians and the church. His best weapon is mankind. History has shown us that men can do great harm to the church in leading Christians astray; however, there is a limit. They cannot destroy the church of Christ (Matthew 16:18). The book of Revelation shows Christ and his church will be victorious. Satan will seek to destroy the church. At times it will look as if he has destroyed the church; however, he has not and he never will. His minions will be exposed and will cease to have power. This is true in the political realm as well as the spiritual. Galatians 6:7-9 is true. The history of the church has proved it.

The Scriptures furnish us completely with the information we must have during the "last days", that is, during the Christian era. But knowing what God has revealed is not enough. We must have the courage to preach "all the counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27). If we fail to address the troublesome issues that are confronting the world and the church, we are not preaching Christ crucified (1 Cor. 2:2). God's people must always remember: Silence can be sinful!