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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**2 Timothy 3:1-9**  
**Lesson #30**  
**Last Days Culture**  
**11/19/2023**

1

## As aliens in this world -

*John 16:33*  
 “in me you may have peace.  
 In the world you have tribulation.”

You are out of touch with the spirit of the age.

**- how should we respond?**

2

*2 Timothy 3*

“1 But realize this, that in the **last days difficult** (hard to bear) **times will come.**”

(Matthew 24-25)

<b>“The beginning of birth pangs”</b>	<b>“The great Tribulation”</b>	<b>Second Coming of Christ</b>	
<b>24:4-14</b>	<b>24:15-28</b>	<b>24:29-31</b>	<b>25:31-46</b>
			<b>Judgment day</b>

*John 16:21*

“**Whenever a woman is in travail she has sorrow**, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she remembers the anguish no more, for joy that a child has been born into the world.”

- ✓ False Christs will come
- ✓ Wars & rumors of wars
- ✓ Famine & earthquakes
- ✓ Believers hated by all
- ✓ Conflict within the ch.
- ✓ False prophets
- ✓ Many are mislead
- ✓ Increased lawlessness
- ✓ Love will grow cold
- ✓ World evangelism

3

*Hebrews 1*

“1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in **these last days** has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

*2 Thess. 2:1-12 2 Pet. 1:20, 2:1-2, 3:3-4*

**The “last days” began with the birth of Christ.**

**The “last days” will end with the 2nd coming of Christ.**

4

*Peter and Paul are of the same Spirit.*

*2 Peter 2*

“1 But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be **false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 **Many will follow their indecent behavior**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;”

- Don’t be surprised when the Christian faith is **contested, confused, and criticized.**
- Don’t be discouraged by **“birth pains”.**

5

*2 Peter 3*

“3 Know this first of all, that in the last days **mockers** will come with their mocking, 4 following after their own lusts, and saying, “**Where is the promise of His coming?** For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue just as *they were* from the beginning of creation.””

<p><b>Fundamentalists</b>          “it’s the end”</p> <p>“We are the terminal generation!”</p>	<p><b>Critics</b>          “it’s smoke &amp; mirrors”</p> <p>“This message of “hope” is a joke.”</p>
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6

*2 Timothy 3*

“1 But realize this, that in the **last days difficult (hard to bear) times will come.**”

## Expectation

1. **Don't expect the Kingdom before its time and without its King.**
2. **Embrace your alien status in this life.**
3. **Remember that these are “birth pains” and that we are anointed to cope with life's events, not to control them. 1 Cor.12:13**
4. **Respond to trials as opportunities to develop and / or demonstrate kingdom character.**

7

*2 Timothy 3*

“2 For men will be **lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving (family decline), irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.**”

*Interpretive paraphrase*

“In bearing the Image of God, Jesus modeled the meaning of true humanity. People often try to find fulfillment in this life by looking for it in the elements of this world rather than in Christ. People's love attachment to this world results in ungodly behavior. The Christian community is influenced by this. Steer clear of these people and this belief and behavior.”

8

*2 Timothy 3*

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## Explanation

**Misplaced love - the door to human suffering.**


**Keep that door shut.**

**Address the core issues of the soul by finding peace in the Word & Way of the Cross.**

9

“Love is moving toward another person's soul with a commitment to help them reach the deepest desire of their heart.”

**which is to be fully human - bearing the image of God (at peace with God, ourselves, and others).**



Bell Hooks

10

## God's gifts /signs can become idols.

**A Golden Calf is not unique to Israel but has become the Bull of Wall Street and baptized into much of the church.**

**American culture and church**



11


**A lesson from the Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-24**

**Our issues are not technical. They are strategic.**

**It was not enough for him to repent of wasting life in a distant land.**

**He had to repent of finding his home in a distant land.**

**We need to take our baptism seriously and be alien ambassadors not citizen consumers.**



12

*2 Timothy 3*

“6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate **weak women weighed down with sins**, led on by various impulses, 7 always **learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**”

*The reference to women here may be related to the restrictions mentioned in 1 Tim.2:9-15.*

*Interpretive paraphrase*

“Like certain women, anyone weakened by shame, isolation, and desperation is particularly vulnerable to being misled. They are easy prey for false teachers who seduce them away from the truth with tempting ideas or theories, which are uncritically embraced, leading them away from sound doctrine.”

13

*2 Timothy 3*

“6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate **weak women weighed down with sins**, led on by various impulses, 7 always **learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**”

## Exploitation

1. **Vulnerability makes easy prey for false teachers.**

**Protect the vulnerable.**

2. **New ideas may sound good at first, but must be critically evaluated.**

**Be a Berean.**

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## Who needs protection?

- Those who are **isolated** (not in social fellowship with other disciples)
- Those who have been **hurt**
- Those who are **young** in the faith

## How can we help?

- Be a **listening** friend.
- **Pray** for a renewed mind.
- Be a good **example**.



15

*2 Timothy 3*

“8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also **oppose the truth**, men of **depraved (corrupt) mind**, rejected as regards the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes’ and Jambres’ folly was also.”

*Interpretive paraphrase*

“Pharaoh’s magicians tried to compete with Moses’ power, but they could not stand against him and in time were exposed (Ex.7:11-12, 8:18-19, 9:11). Power, truth, and patience will eventually win.”

## Exhibition

**Darkness is exposed by salt and light.**  
**Be a lighthouse and a salt shaker.**

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## So how are we to manage life as aliens in a broken world?

1. **Proceed with a realistic Expectation.**

**Don’t be surprised.**

2. **Present a wise Explanation.**

**Don’t be confused.**

3. **Protect the weak from Exploitation.**

**Don’t be passive.**

4. **Project a salt & light Exhibition.**

**Don’t be weak.**

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# 2 Timothy

Next lesson  
2 Timothy  
3:10-17



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