

# THE CHARGE

## A STUDY IN 2 TIMOTHY

### Week 6 - 2 Timothy 3:1-9

#### TEXT –

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

#### INTRODUCTION –

Have you ever had difficulties in your life before? Odds are that some of the difficulties involved other people. In this passage Paul is warning Timothy about things people can do that make it difficult in the last days. The last days is a reference to when Jesus will be closer to making His triumphant return but in the meantime, there will be people that push against the truth of the Gospel. This difficulty is especially pronounced when it comes to sharing the Gospel and living our lives for Jesus. The beginning of this chapter is hard hitting. Paul doesn't pull any punches, but this message is necessary so that we can compare it to the next section of scripture about what a life dedicated to Jesus looks like.

#### QUESTIONS:

Q1 - What are the difficulties that Paul is talking about in this section of scripture?

Q2 - What behaviors do you see this scripture calling out? Write these behaviors out in your own words and don't be afraid to use a dictionary. Is there a theme that you can see through the behaviors listed? Why do you think Paul calls these things "difficulties"?

Q3 - Why does Paul say to "Avoid such people" in verse 5? Does Paul seem worried about the welfare of Timothy and the people receiving this letter?

## QUESTIONS:

Q4 - In verses 5 and 7 there are two examples given when someone has the appearance of godliness but denies its power and then always learning but not able to arrive at the knowledge of truth. Why do you think this could happen to a person?

Q5 - Who are Jannes and Jambres? In verse 8-9, Paul mentions Jannes and Jambres. This is probably a reference to the magicians and sorcerers in Pharaoh's court in the book of Exodus. Read chapter 7 in Exodus. How did the sorcerers and magicians oppose Moses? What was their folly?

## APPLICATION/ACTION -

Paul lists out the behaviors and attitudes that cause difficulty in verses 2-5. Are some of these socially acceptable or even celebrated currently? Are you in friend groups that value these negative behaviors? Are there some of these behaviors that you need to sift out of your life and replace it with something that honors God? Ex. You sift out disobedience to your parents and replace it with honor and obedience to your parents.

We are called to be lights to the world and at the same time to avoid certain behaviors that drag us down and away from Jesus. How are you living with this tension currently and what are some steps to further surrender your life to the Lord even if it means not hanging out with certain people?

## PRAYER -

*Lord, please refine my heart and life to reflect the love of Jesus to others. I pray that you would allow me to be strong in my faith so I would not love the attitudes and behaviors that make it difficult for the Gospel to be shared. I pray that I would be a Jesus loving person on the inside and out and continue to learn truth even if everyone around is not. Amen.*

# Worship

THIS WEEK, CONSIDER LISTENING TO:

Firm Foundation (He Won't) by Cody Carnes