

DEAR TIMOTHY: But As For You

Text: 2 Timothy 3:1-17 (page 996)

Pastor Chad Ellenburg

Grab your torches and pitchforks. (2 Timothy 3:1)

Our pre-existing condition (2 Timothy 3:2-9)

All in the same boat (2 Timothy 3:10-13)

Breathe deeply. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Food for Thought for the week of September 3, 2017 (Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Why do you think there has been such a general increase in interest for “the last days”?
2. For what a reason has God revealed to us what to expect in the last days? Why has He warned us?
3. As you look at 2 Timothy 3:2-9, the typical application is for the false teachers, but how might these issues apply to us as well? What makes us susceptible to these conditions? What things in our society affect us? How can we minimize or prevent our susceptibility?
4. Discuss ways in which we can have the appearance of godliness, but deny its power?
5. How does Paul’s statement that “all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” affect your willingness to follow Jesus? Should we desire persecution? Explain.

“I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please. Not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of God to make me love a black man or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation. I want warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please.”

6. In the above poem by Wilbur Rees, why do you think people settle for (or even desire) \$3 worth of God?
7. Think of the expression, “all scripture is breathed out by God.” What is another reference to God’s breath in scripture? Think about what properties God’s breath contains?
8. Discuss how we can breathe deeply the breath of God? What does it mean to be fluent in the scriptures?
9. Jesus is on trial right now and each of us is a character witness for Him. What things do you want to present to the jury on His behalf?

September 3, 2017

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