

SIGNS FOR OUR TIME: DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

Harringay United Church-Baptist

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Introduction:

For the next five weeks we will be looking at the letters of Paul otherwise called the Pastoral Epistles written to two young pastors Timothy and Titus. He warned them of the perilous times and extreme lawlessness that is coming and it is round the corner.

What is the time now?

When a sixteen year old boy molests and sexually assaults a seven year old, but escaped jail and a week after his release from detention centre sexually assaults another five year old boy. What would you call that?

When a fifteen year old girl is sexually active, does whatever she likes, engages in drugs and other crimes and when she was talking with her friends she said she wished someone would have stopped her or put a check on her before she got to that level. What would you say is happening to that family?

When the mother of a toddler wins a case to make a claim because another toddler hits her child, what would you say is going on? What will happen if one of her children hits the other?

When the mention of God and prayers are taken out of our schools and primary school children are told by celebrities not to worry about their sexuality now but later they may find that they are not straight.

Christmas lights are now winter lights what would you think is happening to our society?

What would you think is going on when children are being taught and encouraged to be immoral instead of discipline and holiness, what will be the future of that nation?

When you wear your golden or silver chain with cross and you are suspended because the cross you wear is causing offence to other people, where is that nation heading to?

You know what I am talking about.

When your teenage girls answers you back, shouts at you and slams the door after she left you furiously.

When your teenage boy goes out and joins gang and causing menace in the neighbourhood.

When people do not want to marry but co-habit and even Christians are caught up in it despite the warning and admonishment from their pastors.

Then we are in a perilous time, I mean the time now is Perilous and things are getting worse and it will continue.

In order to prepare the people of God for this time, Paul wrote Timothy and Titus about the lawlessness and moral decadence that will happen very soon and he warned the two pastors to have nothing to do with them.

Their characteristics (vv. 2-5). About eighteen different characteristics are listed here. The mode in the characteristics is love: "lovers of selves," lovers of money ("covetous"), "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.

Someone has said **"The heart of every problem is a problem in the heart"**. God commands us to love Him above anything else, and our neighbours as ourselves (Matt 22:34-40); but if we love ourselves more than anything else, we will not love God *or* our neighbours as He commands.

God created the universe and everything in it, and He created humans to worship Him, love people, and use things. But if we start worshiping ourselves and things, we will ignore God and start loving things and using people. This is the recipe for a

miserable life; yet that is what many people do today. The worldwide consumerism (craving for things) is just an evidence that people's hearts have turned away from God. People are anti God and even they prefer to worship Satan and idols instead.

If we love and worship ourselves, the result will be pride and that follows the footsteps of Satan. "Ye shall be as gods" was Satan's offer to Eve (Gen 3:5) and that is what he did himself that made him to be thrown down from heaven. People "change the truth of God into a lie, worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator" (Rom 1:25). Man becomes his own god! The creature is now the creator! "Boasters, proud [arrogant], blasphemers (I like the NLT on this – scoffing at God) (2 Tim 3:2).

"Disobedient to parents" implies that the decadence reaches the family. Children are unthankful; never appreciate what their parents are doing for them. They are "unholy" in their attitude toward their parents because they contravene God's command 'Honour thy father and thy mother' and this is rapidly disappearing and not widely taught or respected anymore.

The phrase "without natural affection" is the translation of one word that describes "family love." The family is under attack these days, and, so is the nation.

In place of the natural love that God has put into men and women and families, today we have a good deal of unnatural love which God has condemned in Leviticus 18:22; Rom 1:18-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. It is confusing when high profile people go to Primary schools to tell children not to worry about their sexuality, but God will judge this no matter how people feel about it and no matter how politically correct they are. (Rom 1:28-32).

Nowadays, if you do not share these immoral views, you are viewed as weird and in order to defend their position, they become "slanderers" ["false accusers," KJV) and try to tear down the reputations of others. Unfortunately, some of this activity goes on even among professed Christians.

Lack of self-control is rampant, people have outburst of rage, brutal, uncontrollable and they commit serious crimes. It is as if they are savage beasts. Sad to say, some of the children born to these people do not always enjoy it because they are deformed or handicapped as the result of drugs, alcohol, or sexually transmitted diseases.

In our society today the lines of standards of right and wrong is blurred, if not wiped off. Our attitude today is "do your own thing as long as you enjoy it, it is your human right" But the Bible says 'woe unto them that call evil good and good evil.' (Isa 5:20).

"Traitors" (2 Tim 3:4) describes people who betray others and cannot be trusted. Neither friendship nor partnership makes any difference to them; they break their promises with ignominy and make lying a very present help in times of trouble and convenience to get their own way.

Heady means reckless, rash, acting without careful thought and that is borne from lack of discipline and extreme anger.

High-minded does not describe a person with lofty ideas. Rather, it means a person who is puffed up with his own importance, pride, believing that he is always right. "Conceited" is a good synonym.

I like way Wiersbe says this. "Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" does not suggest that we must choose between pleasure and God; for when we live for God, we enjoy the greatest pleasures (Ps 16:11). The choice is between loving pleasure

and loving God. If we love God, we will also enjoy fullness of life here and after; but the pleasures of sin can only last for a brief time (Heb 11:25). No one can deny that we live in a pleasure-mad world and even go into debt to get it at all cost; but these pleasures too often are just shallow entertainment and escape; they are not enrichment and true enjoyment.

Paul stated that these people he has just described would consider themselves religious! "Having a form of godliness" (2 Tim 3:5). This suggests an outward appearance of religion not true Christian faith; for they have never experienced the power of God in their lives. It is a life of form without force and religion without reality.

Their converts (vv. 6-7). The fact that Paul described "silly ['weak-willed,' NIV] women" does not suggest that all women are like this, or that men are not vulnerable to the wiles of false teachers. In Paul's day, women were especially susceptible to this kind of experience since they had a low status in society. Whether men or women, people who fall for this false religious system have the same characteristics. To some extent, this is still true today. Women (bless them) are quick to believe and get caught up believing anything that comes from leaders even though they cannot establish it from the Scripture.

A woman phoned a minister on a TV show about a problem between her and her husband, the minister asked her to come down from Manchester to London for Prayer, why should it be so, can prayer not be offered even on a phone?

Some ministers will prescribe how much they want you to give to support their ministry, is that in the Bible? Watch out, they use your problems to cunningly enter into your life and starts controlling you?

And, remember: All of this underhanded activity is done in the name of Christ! No wonder Paul told Timothy, "From such turn away."

Who is Jannes and Jambres?

This is the only place these names appear in the Scripture but it is found in some Jewish writing like Targum.

Tradition says that Jannes and Jambres were the two Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses by imitating what he did. When Aaron's rod turned into a serpent, the magicians cast down their rods and they turned into serpents. Moses turned the water into blood, and the magicians followed with the same miracle. When Moses brought up all the frogs, the magicians duplicated the miracle. But when it came to the miracle of the lice, the magicians could not imitate it (Ex 8:16-19).

Satan is an imitator; what God does, Satan counterfeits even all the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many pastors in human wisdom and philosophy and in their attempt to be "modern," they deny the reality of sin and people's need for salvation. "Reprobate" is the word Paul used to describe them. This means "tested and found counterfeit."

Jannes and Jambres were finally exposed and made fools of by the judgments of God. This will also happen to the leaders of false religions in the last days. When God's judgments fall, the true character of these counterfeits will be revealed to everyone.

Where do we get these from?

1. The source is Stan – Revelation 12:13-17
2. Governments through laws

3. Not regulating information being broadcast, telecast and printed
4. Failure of Parents to train up their children
5. Children disobeying their parents and doing their own thing – making their own choice.

What can and should we do?

1. Study the word and understands it – 2 Timothy 3:16 (All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, NKJV)
2. Obey the word and live it (James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. NKJV)
3. Train the children in the Way by setting good example
4. Pray that the children will obey, the government will be sensible in what they put into laws and regulate media about promoting violence through their medium (Philippians 4:6-7) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
5. Be hopeful and trust God for the best
6. Do not be part of those that practice all these evil things. 1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. NKJV

Conclusion:

Whatever you may be undergoing, God is with you. Are your children disobedient, your boss puffs-up, your colleagues scorn at God, your friends betrayed you and lie to you? You are not alone, we are many and are n it together and God knows about it and He will see us through, we are winners and we'll overcome because Christ have overcome. One thing I want to encourage you is that you must not be part of these things we have been speaking about because you must not be accused as sinners, who is involved in any of the above.

Remember that a time is coming when all the rottenness of this world will end and we will live with Christ in His perfect world after we have been finally perfected.