

SERMON NOTES

FAITHFUL IN THE LAST DAYS (PART 1)

2 Timothy 3:1-9



BIG IDEA: We can be faithful in the last days by avoiding those whose character and conduct oppose the truth and by trusting in God's ability to expose them for who they truly are.

APPLICATION GUIDE

OCTOBER 13, 2024

DISCUSS

If you had to describe the current state of faith in society in one word, what would it be? Why?

What are some common "last days" characteristics you see in today's world? How do they compare to what Paul describes in 2 Timothy 3:1-5?

Have you ever encountered someone who seemed to have the "appearance of godliness" but was lacking in true spiritual power? How did that experience affect you?

APPLY

In what ways do you see the characteristics that Paul mentions (e.g., pride, love of money, slander, lack of self-control) manifesting in your own heart or life? What steps can you take to resist these influences?

Paul urges us to "avoid such people" whose character contradicts the truth. What are practical ways you can protect yourself from the influence of false teachings or ungodly behavior in your personal relationships, media consumption, or daily life?

How does knowing that God will ultimately expose falsehood and vindicate truth encourage you to remain faithful, even when it feels like the world is drifting further from biblical principles?

Reflect on the story of Athanasius. Are there areas of your life where you need the courage to stand against the crowd and defend the truth, even if it means being unpopular or facing opposition? Pray for the boldness to stand firm in those areas.

COMMIT

This week, commit to one specific action that will help you avoid ungodly influences and strengthen your walk with Christ. This could include limiting time on social media, avoiding certain conversations, or spending extra time in God's Word.

Further Study

What other biblical examples can you find of people who opposed the truth but were ultimately exposed (e.g., Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5)?

How does Paul's description of the "last days" in 2 Timothy 3 compare with Jesus' teachings on the end times in Matthew 24:4-14? What similarities and differences do you notice?