

QUESTION: What challenges await the world?

2 Timothy 3:1–9 — 1 **But** mark this: There will be terrible (difficult) times in the last days. **2** People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** without love (without family love), unforgiving, slandorous (diabolic), without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, **4** treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. **6** They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, **7** always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. **8** Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth—men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. **9** But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2 Timothy 2:24–26 — 24 And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. **25** Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, **26** and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

THE PULL OF SELF-LOVE

2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** without love (without family love), unforgiving, slanderous (diabolic), without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, **4** treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—

- The love of self begins the downward slide
- The problem lies in our thinking

Ephesians 4:17–24— 17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. **18** They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. **19** Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. **20** You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. **21** Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

THE DANGER OF SETTLING FOR LESS

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BREAKOUT

The Key to a Godly life: **Love God more than self**