



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

Chapter 3

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Introduction

- The theme of chapter 3 is:

Resisting and Refuting Heresies

- Evil in the Last Days (1-5)
- False Teachers (6-9)
- The Faithful Disciple (10-14)
- Abiding in the Word of God (15-17)



Evil in the Last Days (1-5)

- Last days: the days of the New Testament
- Lovers of themselves: This is the main sin that leads to all the other sins in this list
- Lovers of money: (root of all evil)
- Boasters: boasting of having what they have not
- Proud: showing themselves above their fellows
- Blasphemers: evil-speakers
- Disobedient to parents: The character of the times is even to be gathered especially from the manners of the young



Evil in the Last Days (1-5)

- Unthankful: Showing no gratitude
- Unholy: irreligious, inobservant of the offices of piety
- Slanderers: false accusers
- Brutal: inhuman to others
- Headstrong: impulsive in action
- Haughty: “puffed up” with pride
- Lovers of pleasure: love of pleasure destroys the love of God



Evil in the Last Days (1-5)

- Form: outward semblance
- Godliness: piety
- Denying: renounced
- Its power—the living, regenerating, sanctifying influence of it
- Turn away—implying that some of such characters were already in the Church



False Teachers (6-9)

- What makes a person easily deceived?
 - ❖ Listening and receiving false teachers
 - ❖ Lack of discernment
 - ❖ Conscience loaded with sin. A bad conscience leads easily to shipwreck of faith (1 Tit 1:19)
 - ❖ Lustful heart
 - ❖ Ignorance of the Truth (corrupted mind)



False Teachers (6-9)

- Always learning: new doctrines or for mere curiosity to the belittling of the Truth
- The perfect knowledge is the only safeguard against heresies
- Jannes and Jambres: traditional names of the Egyptian magicians who resisted Moses (Ex 7:11, 22) (Evidence of Oral Tradition)
- These magicians could not resist Moses in sending boils, but the boils fell upon themselves so as to the lice (Ex 8:18; 9:11)



False Teachers (6-9)

- They are active, e.g. visitation
- They have wicked intentions
- They resist the truth
- They have corrupt minds
- They are disapproved concerning the faith
- They will progress no further
- Their folly will be manifest to all



The Faithful Disciple (10-14)

- The Disciple carefully follows his teacher in:
 - ❖ Doctrine
 - ❖ Behavior and manner of life
 - ❖ Purpose
 - ❖ Faith and love
 - ❖ Longsuffering and perseverance
 - ❖ Persecution and afflictions



The Faithful Disciple (10-14)

- Antioch (Acts 13:14,50,51)
- Iconium (Acts 14:1-5)
- Lystra (Acts 14:6,19)
- Two important facts regarding suffering:
 - ❖ It is inevitable for those who desire to live godly life
 - ❖ The Lord will deliver them out of them all



Faithful Disciple (10-14)

- The impostors are the seducers like the magicians
- Deceiving, and being deceived: He who deceives others, will be unable to protect himself from deception but rather more easily will hold the errors of others



The Faithful Disciple (10-14)

- The faithful disciple must continue in what he has learned and been assured of (from scripture)
- Of whom you have learned: Not only St. Paul, but from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice
- You saw their piety, success, and how the Lord was with them always

Abiding in the Word of God (15-17)



- We should teach the Holy Scriptures from childhood
- The Word of God makes the person wise for salvation through faith in Christ
- The Holy Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit

Abiding in the Word of God (15-17)



- Inspiration is the supernatural action of the Holy Spirit on the mind of the sacred writers whereby the Scriptures were not merely their own but the Word of God
- Doctrine: the knowledge of the Truth
- Reproof: convicting the heretics of their errors

Abiding in the Word of God (15-17)



- Correction: Setting one right
- Instruction: disciplining or training
- The purpose of the Holy Scriptures are to make us complete and equipped for every good work
- Sound doctrine and godly life are two essential elements to produce good fruits



Conclusion

- What are three things will men love?
- What does make a person an easily prey to Satan?
- What are the characteristics of the false teachers?
- In what areas should the faithful disciple follow his teacher?
- Why it is important to abide in the word of God since childhood?