



Correction
An Anguished Reflection on 2 Timothy 3-4

March 29, 2023

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You must understand this, that in the last days, distressing times will come. For people will be:
lovers of themselves [*self-absorbed, putting their own desires above the protection or needs of others*],
lovers of money [*letting greed and profit come before love of God's creation and God's people*],
boasters [*braggarts, looking for the sound bite that will get the most play*],
arrogant [*acting superior to others*],
abusive [*using power to keep others down or vulnerable, name calling*],
disobedient to their parents [*disrespecting those more senior*],
ungrateful [*wanting more and believing they deserve it*],
unholy [*walking away from God*],
unfeeling [***immune to grief, deep choking grief***],
implacable [*unable to compromise*],
slanderers [*liars*],
profligates [*wasters*],
brutes [*bullies*],
haters of good [*despises others' efforts to live into Christian values and ridicules them for being weak*],
treacherous [*sneaky and untrustworthy*],
reckless [*putting us all at risk*],
swollen with conceit [*believing they, alone, are righteous*]
lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God [*swayed by impulse and personal gain*],
holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power [***waving the Bible around, but ignoring the compassion, love, grace, and liberation central to the gospel***].

Avoid them! Wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths [*fantasy, made-up stories, conspiracy theories*].

As for you,
be sober in everything,
endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist [***you mean, there's still good news to be proclaimed?***],
carry out your ministry fully.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience [*how long, O Lord?*] in teaching.

May we admit where we need correction. Then, may we fight the good fight. The Lord be with your spirit.
Grace be with you.