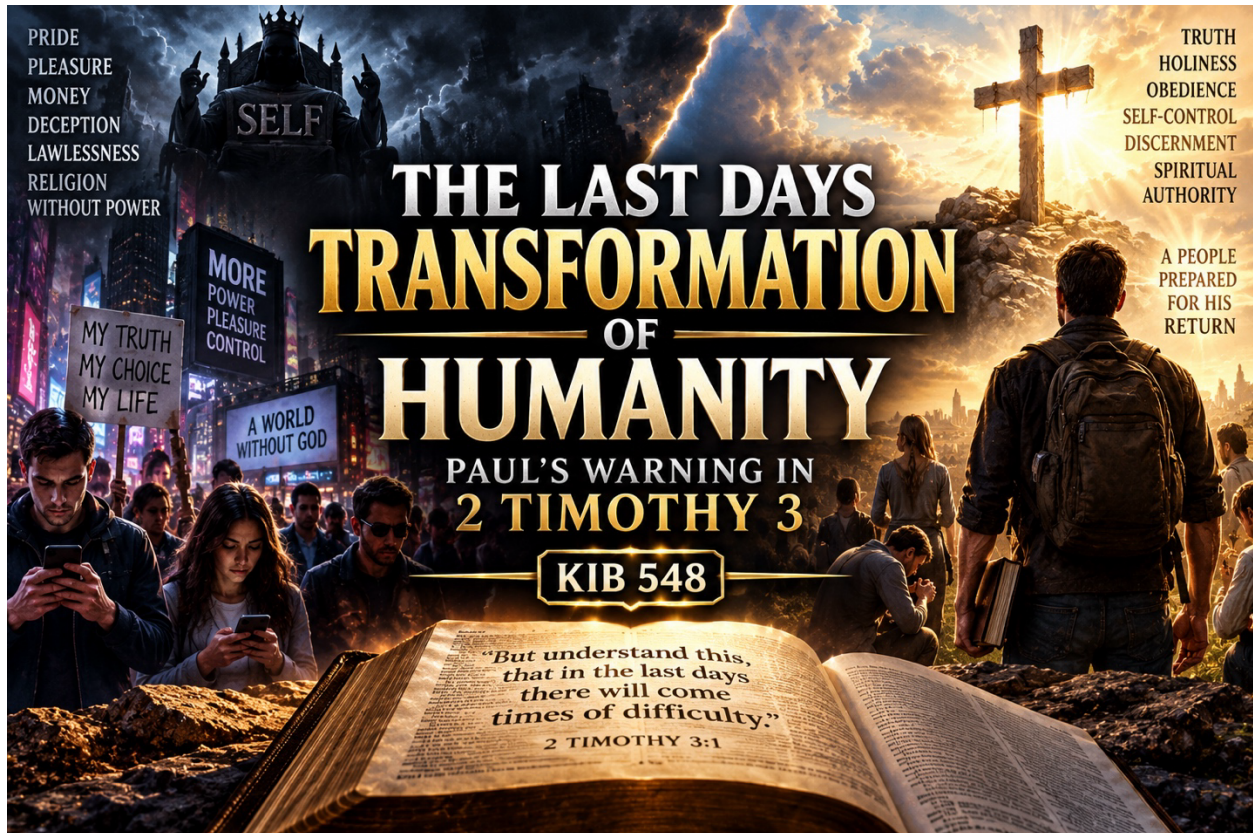




The Last Days Transformation of Humanity: Paul's Warning in 2 Timothy 3 | KIB 548

Kingdom Intelligence Briefing



Foundational Scripture

2 Timothy 3:1–9 (ESV)

1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. **2** For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4** treacherous,

reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. **6** For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, **7** always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. **8** Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. **9** But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

Introduction

When Jesus taught on the last days in the book of Matthew, He described those days from an aerial view:

Matthew 24:3–8 (ESV)

3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” **4** And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. **5** For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. **6** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Jesus reveals a wave of false Christs, teachers, and prophets. As well as global unrest and a rise of natural disasters. I believe Paul

reveals what happens because of the teachings of the false ministries in 2 Timothy.

Central Theme of 2 Timothy 3:1-6

In the last days, humanity will increasingly manifest the characteristics of fallen human nature when it is liberated from the restraint of truth, godliness, covenantal morality, and submission to God. The result will not merely be increased immorality but the normalization, celebration, and eventual spiritualization of rebellion. This understanding connects to the effects of the Watchers, their teachings and technologies, on humanity.

Genesis 6:5 (ESV)

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Jesus told us:

Matthew 24:37 (ESV)

37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

This includes not just the Nephilim and UFOs. It includes the Watchers' teachings (their lies) and the dark effects they produce in the human soul.

Within the established church, Paul's warning is a sobering one!

2 Timothy 3:5 (ESV)

5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Paul is therefore describing something more dangerous than secular wickedness. He foresees a form of humanity that can combine moral corruption with religious appearance.

1. THE PROPHETIC SETTING: “IN THE LAST DAYS”

2 Timothy 3:1 (ESV)

1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

Greek:

ἐν ἐσχάταις ἡμέραις
en eschatais hēmerais
“in the last days”

The adjective *eschatos* means “last,” “final,” or “farthest/extreme.”

¹

The New Testament teaches that the “last days” began with the coming of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

- Acts 2:17
- Hebrews 1:1–2
- 1 Peter 1:20
- 1 John 2:18

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 397.

Therefore, Paul is not necessarily saying that these characteristics will suddenly appear for the first time immediately before Christ returns. Humanity has always possessed these sinful tendencies. Rather, the passage appears to describe conditions that will characterize particularly dangerous seasons within the last-days era.

2. “TIMES OF DIFFICULTY”

Paul writes:

“there will come times of difficulty.”

The Greek expression is:

καιροὶ χαλεποί
kairoi chalepoi

Kairos refers to an appointed season, period, or critical time.²

The significant word is *chalepos*.

It can carry the ideas of:

- Difficult
- Dangerous
- Harsh
- Fierce
- Violent
- Hard to endure
- Noxious³

² Ibid. 497

³ *The Lexham Analytical Lexicon to the Greek New Testament* (Logos Bible Software, 2011).

Interestingly, the same Greek word occurs in Matthew 8:28 concerning the two demonized men:

“two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way.” (ESV)

There, the ESV translates *chalepoi* as “fierce.”

This gives 2 Timothy 3:1 greater force. Paul warns Timothy that seasons will arise when human society becomes spiritually, morally, and relationally dangerous.

But notice why the times become dangerous. Paul immediately says: “For people will be...”

The dangerous character of the times results from the dangerous character of people.

This produces an important theological principle:

THE CHARACTER OF A CULTURE IS ULTIMATELY PRODUCED
BY THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE WITHIN IT.

3. THE FIRST CHARACTERISTIC: LOVERS OF SELF

2 Timothy 3:2

“For people will be lovers of self...”

Greek:

φιλαυτοι
philautoi

The word combines:

- philos = love/affection
- autos = self

Literally: “self-lovers.”

This may be the foundational disorder underlying everything that follows. Biblical morality begins with God at the center.

Deuteronomy 6:5 commands:

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (ESV)

Jesus confirms this as the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:37–38.

Fallen humanity reverses this order.

Instead of:

God → others → self

Fallen humanity increasingly moves toward:

SELF → desires → God only if useful.

This creates what we might call an anthropological inversion. Humanity becomes its own reference point.

- Truth becomes: “What is true for me?”
- Morality becomes: “What feels right to me?”
- Identity becomes: “Who do I believe myself to be?”
- Religion becomes: “What can God do for me?”
- Worship becomes: “How does this make me feel?”

The self moves toward the throne that belongs to God. This echoes the primal temptation of Genesis 3:5:

“you will be like God.”

4. The Three Loves Fallen Humanity Put Before God

Notice that Paul describes three corrupted loves in this passage:

- Lovers of self — 2 Timothy 3:2
- Lovers of money — 2 Timothy 3:2
- Lovers of pleasure — 2 Timothy 3:4

These stand in direct contrast to:

- Lovers of God — 2 Timothy 3:4.

The central battle is therefore fundamentally a battle of love and allegiance.

5. PROUD, ARROGANT, AND ABUSIVE

2 Timothy 3:2 describes people as:

“proud, arrogant, abusive”

These characteristics reveal the social consequences of self-love. The progression is significant:

Self-exaltation becomes pride internally, then pride externally, and eventually abuse toward others.

When the self becomes supreme, other people lose intrinsic value and increasingly become tools, obstacles, competitors, or enemies.

6. Paul's List Continues

Paul continues the downward spiral that will happen in the last days. I am not going to go through all of the attributes given in these verses about the apostle Paul. For the sake of time, I will be touching on certain ones.

a. Unholy: (*anosioi*) Irreverent, profane, or contrary to what is sacred. The progression continues: Self becomes supreme. Authority is rejected. Gratitude disappears. Then holiness loses meaning. What God calls sacred becomes treated as common. What God calls sinful becomes normalized. What God calls holy becomes mocked or rejected. Isaiah 5:20 provides an important biblical parallel:

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil...”

b. Heartless: (*astorgoi*) This word is particularly revealing. *Storgē* refers to natural familial affection. The alpha prefix negates it. Therefore, *astorgos* describes the absence of natural affection.

Paul anticipates a condition in which even normal human bonds begin deteriorating.

- Family affection.
- Parental affection.

- Loyalty.
- Compassion.
- Human empathy.

This suggests something deeper than ordinary selfishness. Sin progressively dehumanizes humanity.

c. **Unappeasable:** (*aspondoi*) The word can mean:

- Irreconcilable
- unwilling to make peace
- refusing reconciliation

Such people do not merely experience conflict. They refuse resolution. This produces societies characterized by permanent hostility. Reconciliation becomes increasingly difficult because ideological victory becomes more important than restored relationships.

d. **Slandorous:** (*diaboloi*) This is particularly striking. The word is the plural form of *diabolos*—the term frequently used for the Devil. Its basic meaning is:

- slanderer
- false accuser
- one who maliciously accuses

Therefore, one characteristic of last-days humanity is participation in the behavior that characterizes Satan himself. Compare Revelation 12:10:

“the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

A culture of accusation therefore possesses profound spiritual significance. Reputation destruction, false accusation, malicious gossip, and relentless condemnation mirror the Accuser's activity.

e. **Without Self-Control:** (*akrateis*) This means lacking mastery over one's appetites. Biblical freedom is not the ability to satisfy every desire. Biblical freedom includes the ability, through God's grace and the Holy Spirit's work, to refuse sinful desires.

Compare Galatians 5:22–23:

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

Therefore:

- Spirit-governed humanity produces self-control.
- Flesh-governed humanity increasingly loses self-control.

f. **Brutal:** (*anēmeroi*). The word means:

- Savage
- Fierce
- Untamed
- brutal

Civilization normally restrains certain manifestations of fallen human nature through law, family, social expectations, conscience, and moral teaching. Paul anticipates periods when those restraints weaken. When restraint collapses, the fallen nature does not produce greater freedom. It produces greater savagery.

7. THE MOST DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT: RELIGION WITHOUT POWER

2 Timothy 3:5 (ESV)

“having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.”

This changes the entire complexion of the passage. These people are not necessarily atheists. They possess:

μόρφωσιν εὐσεβείας
morphōsin eusebeias

a “form” or “appearance” of godliness.

They maintain religious structure while rejecting the transforming reality of biblical godliness.

This can produce:

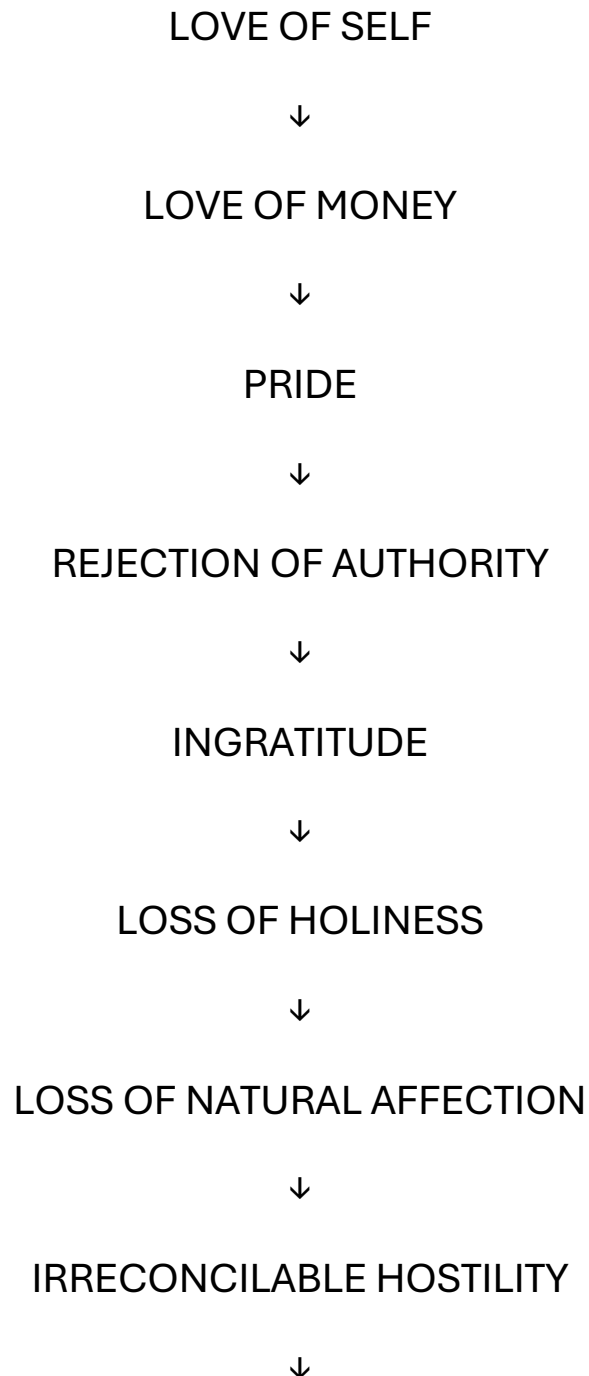
- Christian vocabulary without biblical obedience.
- Worship without holiness.
- Church attendance without discipleship.
- Spiritual experiences without discernment.
- Grace without repentance.
- Faith without faithfulness.
- Religious identity without transformation.

Paul's warning is therefore not merely: “The world will become wicked.”

It is also: WICKEDNESS CAN CLOTHE ITSELF IN RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE.

8. THE PROGRESSION OF LAST-DAYS HUMANITY

2 Timothy 3:1–9 presents something resembling a downward progression:



ACCUSATION AND SLANDER



LOSS OF SELF-CONTROL



BRUTALITY



HATRED OF GOOD



BETRAYAL



RECKLESSNESS



SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS THROUGH PRIDE



LOVE OF PLEASURE ABOVE GOD



RELIGION WITHOUT TRANSFORMATION



SPIRITUAL EXPLOITATION



INFORMATION WITHOUT TRUTH



COUNTERFEIT SPIRITUAL POWER



OPPOSITION TO TRUTH



CORRUPTION OF THE MIND

Conclusion

2 Timothy 3:1–9 reveals that one of the greatest signs of the last days will be the progressive transformation of human character as mankind rejects God, enthrones self, abandons biblical restraint, loses its love for truth, and eventually develops religious forms capable of accommodating rebellion rather than transforming it. Yet God places a boundary upon deception, exposes counterfeit spirituality, and calls His people to remain separated, discerning, holy, truth-centered, and genuinely transformed by His power.

This passage represents the last days transformation of humanity from the image of God to the exaltation of self!