

Issues Christians Face: An Assault on God's Word

(II Timothy 3:1-17)

Introduction.

A) Recently, we've seen some troubling things occurring in our nation. We've seen a once proud and strong nation, just 30 years ago, experience a tidal wave of assaults including direct terror attacks, troubling Supreme Court decisions, and the undermining of anything "Christian."

B) Folks, we are seeing spiritual warfare in our midst. Dr. Henry Morris, President of Institute for Creation Research, describes what is going on around us as "The Long War Against God." Since Satan rebelled against God and was cast out as from a dwelling place in heaven, he has warred against almighty God. In the Garden of Eden, he tempted Adam and Eve. During the days of Noah, he was behind the sinfulness of men so great that the Bible refers to it as "every man doing what was right in his own sight." When God raised up a people unto Himself, Satan sought to destroy Israel through conquering soldiers and spiritual compromise. When God sent Jesus to secure salvation for all that believe, Satan attempted to derail the plan. When God launched the New Testament Church, the enemy immediately sought to destroy it through persecution and compromise.

C) As a nation founded on Biblical values, as a country that has historically been Christian, and as a missionary sending people, Satan has set his sight on our nation. The goal is to render us spiritually impotent.

D) We are a part of the Long War Against God.

E) Contextualize II Timothy: When he wrote his second letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul was in the midst of Satan's Assaults against the Lord's Churches. He knew trouble. He knew persecution. He knew spiritual warfare. Paul described His days as "perilous" or "dangerous" times.

F) Folks, we are living in troubling times!

G) Introduce Series. Today, I want to introduce a series messages entitled, "Issues Facing Christians Today." During this series we will I

look at several moral and social issues we face and determine God's answer to these issues.

Some of the issues we will examine include
An Assault on the Word of God
An Assault on Biblical Marriage
An Assault on the Traditional Family
The Devaluation of Human Life
An Assault on the Biblical Account of Creation
The Proliferation of Biotechnology
The Need for a Biblical World View

I. Signs of Perilous Times

***Principle:** The "last days" will be marked by an escalation of evil and opposition to God.*

Note: The "last day" began with the ministry of Jesus and will continue until the return of Christ. They are deemed the "last days" because in them God is completing his purpose in His people. - Warren Wiersbe.

A) Lovers of Self. What is the tone of this age? "Me-ism." People turned inward, living for self alone, as if Jesus Christ never lived.

B) Lovers of Money. People live for what they can grab, not what they can give. We're to worship God, love people, and use things. Today we ignore God, love things, and use people.

C) Boasters and proud. Modern man continually boasts of human greatness and achievement. Like egomaniacs, people are strutting to hell, thinking they're too good to be damned.

D) Blasphemers. Profanity and pornography, piped into the living rooms of America, blaspheme the name of God with First Amendment protection. You can have a rock concert with obscenities and blasphemies beyond description, yet boys and girls in school who want to have a nativity play are said to violate that amendment.

E) Disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving. We are raising a generation that doesn't understand authority. Schools ignore parents' objections to liberal teaching on homosexuality, abortion, birth control, sex, and relative morality. Karl Marx is required reading, but the

Bible is banned. Witches, homosexuals and anarchists are invited in to air their ideas, but no Bible, token prayers, or Scripture reading, please.

F) Unloving. “Unloving” means “without family love,” the love God designed between a man and a woman and between parents and children. Divorce is epidemic, homosexuality is militant, and 97% of all abortions take place not to save the mother’s life, but simply for convenience.

G) Slanderers. We’ve come to a day when a man’s word means nothing, whether it’s a business contract, a marriage contract, or a treaty between nations. Many live together without the benefit of marriage in a nation of throw-away marriages.

H) Without self-control, brutal. Our jails are filled. We don’t have enough space to warehouse the criminals. And the number of known terrorists groups is so large, it may be incalculable. It will not be long before your life and mine will be in much graver danger than today because of international terrorism.

I) Despisers of those who are good, traitors, reckless, conceited. The heroes of today’s youth are not the godly, the missionary, the soul winner, or the mother who stays home and raises children. These are not their heroes.

J) Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Resorts, theaters, stadiums, and nightclubs are packed. Sunday is a day to do almost anything but worship God. “The Lord’s Day” has been renamed “the weekend.”

K) Having a form of religion, but denying the power thereof. False religion will be the order of the day. Religious activity in America is at an all-time high — but so is our crime rate. Something is desperately wrong. Most Americans do not need religion; they need to turn from religion to Jesus Christ.

L) Burdened down with sin (v. 6). Every person is laden with a heavy weight of sin. That’s what keeps the psychiatrists going, the sedatives being sold, and alcohol consumed. People are trying to forget. They are sitting ducks for the devil.

M) Led away by a variety of lusts (v. 6). Their unfulfilled desires create an emptiness that causes them to look for something — anything — to remove the guilt feelings they have.

N) Ever learning, never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (v. 7). We have a knowledge explosion today and a generation always looking for something new. Knowledge will increase, but not truth.

O) As it was in the day of Moses (v.8). Look for an explosion of the occult...more miracles than ever, most not done by God but by the power of darkness, Satan. Many will be swept up by these miracles.

II. God's Solution for Perilous Times

Principle: God knows the broad power of the Word of God.

A) Power to defeat evil (v. 13-14)

B) Power to save a soul (v. 15)

C) Power to affect personal living (v. 16)

III. Satan's Logical Response

Principle: Satan's strategy is an assault on the Word of God.

A) Undermine the authenticity of the Word of God.

B) Undermine the authority of the Word of God.

C) Undermine the accuracy of the Word of God.

Conclusion.