

Perilous Times

By Frank Brown

*(2 Tim 3:1-9 KJV) "This know also, that in the last days **perilous times** shall come. {2} For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, {3} Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, {4} Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of Yahweh; {5} Having a form of righteousness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. {6} For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, {7} Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. {8} Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. {9} But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was."*

I believe that we are now in or very near the “last days” that the Apostle Paul spoke of – the same time frame that Yahshua spoke of in Matthew 24, and the setting of the Book of Revelation. Dangerous times, brethren. The “men” that Paul spoke of are not the deceived masses we see all around us in the world, but rather they are among us, who are supposed to be the “called out ones,” the very Body of the Messiah, the Firstfruits of His harvest:

*(James 1:18 KJV) "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of **firstfruits** of his creatures." (Rev 14:4 KJV) "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the **firstfruits** unto YHWH and to the Lamb."*

But we have many warnings that there is a “fifth column” among us who are traitors to the cause, and are in reality tools of Satan and his demons. Note this Scripture:

*(1 Tim 4:1-2 KJV) "Now the **Spirit** speaketh **expressly**, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (demons){2} Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"...*

We have been reading over these Scriptures most of our lives, but now we are beginning to see them come to pass. Even in some local Assemblies, we are hearing “every wind of doctrine” being expounded as “Truth.”

We also have rebellion against those whom Yahshua has placed in positions of leadership. Yahweh says that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (1 Sam. 15:23). Witches were not allowed to live; neither were the rebels.

They profess to follow Yahshua, but do not do the things He commanded. They are not afraid to “speak evil of dignities,” and to despise “government” that Yahweh has set up within His Assemblies (2 Pet 2:10-12 KJV) *"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to **speak evil of dignities**. {11} Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before YHWH {12} But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, **speak evil of the things that they understand not**; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;"*

Besides all these things, there are outright heresies and false doctrines being promulgated by high-minded men who ought to know better. They reject the Scripture to establish their own ideas. A big one now is “Lunar Sabbaths,” with their own man-made calendars, and various ways of determining what they think is the weekly Sabbath. They are pretty slick at it, just as Scripture said they would be. Notice what Paul was inspired to write about false ministers and teachers:

(2 Cor 11:12-15 NRSV) "And what I do I will also continue to do, in order to deny an opportunity to those who want an opportunity to be recognized as our equals in what they boast about. {13} For such boasters are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of the Messiah. {14} And no wonder! Even satan disguises himself as an angel of light. {15} So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness. Their end will match their deeds."

What do they lack besides sound doctrine? Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are these, as Paul listed:

(Gal 5:22-23 KJV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

We must have love – toward Yahweh and Yahshua, as well as love toward our fellow man. In fact, we show love toward Yahweh by showing love and good works toward our brothers. Read Mat. 25:31-46.

If we are doing this, then the other fruits will follow. We are to consider the end from the beginning. This life is not our ultimate goal, but is a testing ground to prove whether or not we can be trusted with eternal life. See John 15:11 and 17:13. Yahshua living in us is our joy. It is our key to the Kingdom. Peace? We can have peace in our hearts when we are content with what we have, who we are, and where we are going.

Patience and gentleness speak for themselves. If we are rude, talk or act roughly toward others, or have a bad temper, then we are the opposite of “patient and gentle.” “Goodness,” or righteousness, and faith, or faithfulness, is acquired and developed over time through obedience, study, prayer, and going out of our way to help our fellow man along this trail of tears.

So brothers and sisters, beware. Take heed. Compare the doctrines and works of others with the Scriptures. That includes all the ministers you know, all the newsletter writers you know (including this one); any and all who would teach doctrine. Just be double sure it comes from the Scriptures and do not be taken in by fast talk or “proof” from non-Scriptural books.

Read 2 Peter 1:1 - 10, and especially verse 10: (2 Pet 1:10 KJV) "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" HalleluYAH! ~