

## 2 Timothy 3

1. But know this, that in the last days ***perilous times*** will come:
2. For men will be ***lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,***
3. ***unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,***
4. ***traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure*** rather than lovers of God,
5. having a ***form of godliness but denying its power***. And from such people ***turn away!***
6. For of this sort are those who creep into households and ***make captives of gullible*** women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,
7. ***always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth***.
8. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also ***resist the truth***: men of ***corrupt minds, disapproved*** concerning the faith;
9. but they will ***progress no further***, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Paul is referring to the end of days, but he is also linking the situation to his present time as he is warning Timothy in the present tense.

- **Godliness**, as Paul used it was the Greek “eusebeia.” It meant piety, especially as it applied to the Gospel.
- **Deny** in the original language (arneomai), means to contradict, refuse, disavow, renounce or reject.
- **Power** (dunamis) means force, especially miraculous power.

### DISCUSSION:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A FORM OF GODLINESS (RELIGION) BUT DENY ITS POWER?  
GIVE AN EXAMPLE IN OUR WORLD TODAY.

### THE BACKGROUND TO WHAT PAUL IS SAYING.

So, Paul is referring to a ***religious system***, but also a façade in how the ***people present themselves***. It is their intention to look virtuous and pious. But, at the core of this religious system, there is a rejection in intent, belief, and practice of any miraculous power or experience of God. At the most, it is merely the thought of God’s existence, or in the extreme, not even the divine but a code of philosophy or moral set.

Let’s consider what form this religion or religious mindset might take:

There is a ***literal God***, but He does not manifest Himself in the physical world. The reason that this is the case -

- a) That is simply the ***nature of the divine***; God (gods) never mix into the merely corporeal.
- b) God ***once worked supernaturally*** in the physical, but doesn’t anymore because -It was only ***required for an earlier time***. -Or- The ***clockwork principle***; God started creation, wound it up, and left it to tick for itself.

***This religious or moral mindset will be culturally acceptable***. It will be “popular religion.” The culture in general, and the people involved in this religion will be the same, even though they give a pious face.

Their defining features will be (in terms of the original language):

- **“Self-lovers”** (tuphoo) the meaning, to inflate with conceit. This is not the nature, but the  *motive*  of people. Even the most conceited will do acts of kindness, not because it is right, but because it allows them to feel good about themselves. They are self-centered.
- **“Money-lovers”** (philarguros) fond of silver, i.e. avaricious, covetous.
- **“Braggarts”** (alazon) Simpson defines as “the bounce of swaggering.”
- **“Arragant”** (huperephanos) appearing above others, conspicuous, haughty. “Braggart” is a manner of acting; arrogance forms in the mind.
- **“Blasphemers”** (blasphemos) This is a trait, not just against God, but against humanity. It means to spread scandal and slander.
- **“Disobedient to parents”** (apeithes) meaning unpersuadable. They will not be taught.
- **“Without natural feeling”** (astorgos), the negative form of affectionate. Hard-hearted towards kindred.
- **“Unthankful”** (acharistos) thankless or ungrateful. A modern term we might use is “entitled”.
- **“Implacable”** (aspondos) meaning “truceless”.
- **“Slanderer”** (diabolos) A false accuser, devil, Satan
- **“Without self-control”** (akrates) powerless
- **“Savage”** Brutal
- **“Haters of good, betrayers”**
- **“Reckless”** (propetes) literally- falling forward or headlong
- **“Pompous”**
- **“Pleasure-lovers rather than God-lovers”** (philotheo), which we can interpret as “friends of God.”

## DISCUSSION

- HOW DO THESE TRAITS FIT IN A RELIGIOUS OR BELIEF SYSTEM?
- GIVE EXAMPLES IN OUR DAY?

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