

LIVING IN DANGEROUS TIMES

2 Timothy 3:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: In studying the history of the world there appears to be times where there was relative peace world-wide but then again there have been times that there were very perilous, dangerous times. Today's world seems to be in a very perilous condition with wars and rumors of wars, natural disasters, disease, immorality, wickedness, you "name it, it's happening today." How is a person supposed to handle all that is going on in today's world? What has made the world as it is today?

I. GOD'S WORD HAS MUCH TO SAY ABOUT PERILOUS TIMES

1. The texts: Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Timothy 3:1-5
2. **"...But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come..."** - 2 Timothy 3:1
 - A general warning, to all of every generation, but it seems to be so applicable to today's times.
3. What can be said about these perilous or grievous times?
 - They are DIFFICULT times:
 - Makes one feel uneasy spiritually
 - Many temptations and stumbling blocks for everyone.
 - They are DEPRAVED times:
 - Even though one may not have been born in depravity, he/she is surrounded by moral depravity.
 - Crimes and sins, like murder, rape, incest, bestiality, homosexuality and unnatural affections are seen everywhere.
 - America sanctions killing of babies as a means to practice birth control.
 - They are DECEIVED times:
 - People are being taught countless untrue things.
 - Religion is used to fool and deceive people.
 - They are DANGEROUS times:
 - People seem to be going from bad to worse.
 - Evilness grows worse and worse.
 - There is little or no sensitivity to truth anymore.

II. HORRIBLE, GRIEVOUS SINS ARE CHARACTERISTIC IN PERILOUS TIMES

1. There are grievous sins which are rampant in the world and America today.
2. Sadly, America and the world are accepting the grievous sins as "normal, natural."
3. Here are 18 grievous sins that mark the perilous "last days:"
 - "lovers of self"
 - those who seek their own interests, profit and enjoyment
 - it lies at the root of all sin
 - "lovers of money" (covetous)
 - loving money in such a way that it controls one's behavior
 - **"...a root of all kinds of evil..."** 1 Timothy 6:10

- "boastful"
 - things of no value, big words, uplifted pride, loud in one's own praise.
- "haughty" (proud)
 - high-minded and arrogant
 - looking down on others who are considered "beneath one's own self"
- "railers" (blasphemers)
 - speaking evil, slanderous, abusive, reproachful
 - how one speaks to and of others
- "disobedient to parents"
 - rejection of parental authority which is so commonplace today
 - this was condemned more than anything else under the Law given to Moses.
- "unthankful"
 - showing ingratitude, failing to express gratitude
 - so many today fail to express their thanks to others.
- "unholy"
 - any form of unrighteousness
 - treating holy things as common or profane
- "without natural affection"
 - the opposite of love of one's own kin
 - abortion, child abuse, disrespect/disobedience to parents
- "implacable" (truce breakers)
 - promise breakers, not keeping one's word
 - cannot be persuaded to enter into an agreement
- "slanderers" (false accusers)
 - spreads false tales or rumors about someone else
 - accusations intended deliberately to damage or harm another person
- "without self-control" (incontinent)
 - inability or desire to control the natural appetites
 - unwilling to bring one's self under control.
- "fierce" (savage)
 - full of hatred, brutal and savage in treatment of others.
 - brutal or vicious attitude toward others in opposition
- "no lovers of good" (despisers of those that are good)
 - loves neither good people or good things.
 - despise and belittle anything that is good or wholesome
- "traitors"
 - ready to betray any person or trust committed to one's keeping.
 - a crime, treason toward others and especially God
- "headstrong" (heady)
 - obstinate, willful, ungovernable
 - stubbornly bent on pursuing one's own plans and accomplishments
- "puffed-up" (high minded)
 - proud, full of self, blinded by one's own pride
- "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God"
 - more ready to follow one's sensual pleasures than God
 - intent on pleasing themselves.

- Does not all of these "signs" appear today, especially in America?

CONCLUSION:

1. Does America have grounds to boast on that it has none of the characteristics listed defining a perilous and grievous time?
 - ***"...holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof..."***
 - an outward appearance, thus an empty shell
 - a "form of godliness"
 - denying the "power thereof by our stubborn, selfish hard heart"
2. Philippians 2:14-16
 - Today finds us in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.
 - Even so, we can still be lights in the darkness of our world
 - Christian! You are light and salt, for you are standing for God
3. No doubt America is nothing like it started out and today it is far from God. Today the world is in a dangerous and perilous situation and only God can change things.