

APOSTASY vs. FIDELITY IN THE LAST DAYS (2 Timothy 3:1-14)

I. INTRODUCTION TO 2 TIMOTHY (1:1-5)

II. FAITHFULNESS AMIDST AFFLICTION (1:6–2:13)

III. FAITHFULNESS AMIDST APOSTASY (2:14–4:8)

A. Responding to False Teaching & Teachers (2:14-26)

B. Apostasy in the Last Days (3:1-9)

1. God wants all believers to _____ that we are living in the _____ and what they will be like. (vv. 1-9)
 - *What does the theological term “eschatology” mean?*
 - *What does this say about the value of Bible prophecy?*

2. The phrase “last days” in verse 1 and similar expressions throughout the New Testament refer to the entirety of the _____ from Christ’s first coming to the Rapture. (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:1-2; Jam. 5:3, 7-9; 1 John 2:18; 1 Peter 1:5, 13, 20; 2 Peter 3:3-4; Jude 17-18)
 - *How do the last days/church age relate prophetically to the Rapture, Tribulation, Second Coming, and Kingdom?*
 - *What do the “last days” or “latter times” mean according to the OT prophets? (Isa. 2:2; Jer. 30:18-24; 49:39; Ezek. 38:16; Dan. 2:28; 10:14; Hos. 3:4-5)*

3. The first-century Christians believed in the _____ of the Rapture—that Christ could come back for them in their lifetimes and therefore that they too were living in the last days (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 1 John 2:28; 3:2-3).

4. The _____ is presently being set in these “last days” for the fulfillment of events _____ the Rapture and during the Tribulation. (vv. 1-5a)
 - *How are we to respond to this apostasy and these religious false teachers? (3:5b)*
 - *How are they further described in vv. 6-8 and when will the promise of v. 9 be fulfilled?*

C. Fidelity in the Last Days (3:10-14)

1. Paul reminded Timothy how he had already carefully followed Paul's example of faithfulness and implies he must continue to do so with respect to his . . .

- a) _____ (*didaskalia*).
- b) _____ (*agōgē*).
- c) _____ (*prothesis*).
- d) _____ (*pistis*).
- e) _____ (*makrothymia*).
- f) _____ (*agapē*).
- g) _____ (*hypomonē*).
- h) _____ (*diōgmos*).
- i) _____ (*pathēma*).

- *When did this occur in Paul's life? (Acts 13–14)*
- *Who was with Paul through these trials and how does this relate to us? (Ps. 34:19; Isa. 43:2; Matt. 28:20; Acts 26:17; 2 Tim. 4:18)*
- *What else are we promised as believers during these last days? (2 Tim. 3:12)*

2. We are foretold that evil and deception will only get _____ over the course of the church age/last days before Christ's coming. (v. 13; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Matt. 13:24-33)

- *How does this compare with the different millennial positions on eschatology?*

3. Despite the apostasy of these last days, we as believers in Christ must _____ (*menō*) or _____ in the truth that we have received through other faithful believers but ultimately from the Lord. (v. 14, John 8:30-32; Heb. 10:35-37)