

"Last Days"
2 Timothy 3:1-7

"The last days" began with the birth of Christ and will culminate in Christ's return to the earth to set up His kingdom. The prediction of "perilous times" indicates that apostasy will characterize the final days of the church age. [1 Timothy 4:1](#), [2 Thessalonians 2:3](#)

"Perilous times": Perilous times would be times of great uncertainty. Possibly, a better way to say this would be to say dangerous times. "Perilous" is used to describe the savage nature of two demon-possessed men [Matthew 8:28](#)

Such savage, dangerous times will increase in frequency and severity as the return of Christ approaches (verse 13). The church age is filled with these dangerous movements accumulating strength as the end nears [Matthew 7:15; 24:11-12, 24; 2 Peter 2:1-2](#)).

This list of attributes characterizing the leaders of the dangerous seasons is a description of unbelievers similar to the Lord's [Mark 7:21-22](#)

2 Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,"

There has never been a time when the statement "lovers of their own selves" was truer than in our society today. The child, that grows up believing himself to be the center of everything, finds it difficult to put God at the center of his life. They can easily fall into being lovers of their own selves.

In this affluent society, children have been given so many things they did not earn; that they have the idea society owes them a living. They never have to wait for a special occasion to come to receive their wants, so they become unthankful.

When you believe that you are the center of everything, then you believe that anything you want should be yours, even if it belongs to someone else. You can see that coveting is a form of loving yourself as well. [James 4:1](#), [Romans 12:3](#)

Verses 5-9: "A form of godliness" is mere religion without "power" or spiritual life. "Having a form of godliness ... denying the power": "Form" refers to outward shape or appearance. Their outward form of Christianity and virtue makes them even more dangerous. [Matthew 23:25; Titus 1:16](#)

2 Timothy 3:7 "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."
[Romans 10:3](#)

One of the major traits of the last days will be an increase in the number of cults and false religions.

Paul has been cautioning Timothy of false teaching that will come in the church. In this lesson, Paul speaks prophetically of the last days. This will be things that are happening primarily out of the church in society itself, but much of it taking place in the church, as well. [1 Corinthians 5:1-6](#)

After having explained to Timothy the correct way to teach and witness the Apostle tells Timothy why such knowledge is necessary. **"the last days perilous times will come"** (v1). Paul admonishes Timothy to **"know this."**

As we review Paul's list of examples of actions that make the times perilous, we should note the conditions of today's world. [Romans 13:11-15](#)

While in many New Testament passages, the term **"last days"** refers to the end times of Messiah's Coming [Acts 2:17; James 5:3; 2 Peter 3:3](#)), here they are clearly refer to the present time.

Timothy is to **"understand," "know," "recognize,"** or **"realize"** this.

It is just as "present" for us as it was for Timothy. There may be seasons of rest and little evil activity in our individual lives, but evil and Satan are always at work in the world. [Genesis 3:1](#), [1 Peter 5:8](#)

there have been between 1,000 and 2,000 new religious movements started in the US in the twentieth century.

It is not surprising that we encounter these cults. Paul warned us of this as well
[2 Corinthians 11:13-15](#), [1 Timothy 4:1-3](#), [2 Timothy 4:3-4](#)