

Endurance Through Sound Doctrine

Goal: Get an understanding of the importance of staying with sound doctrine so that we are not moved away from truth and can endure to the end.

Objectives

- The Times we are Living in and Our Response in these Times
- The Importance of Staying with Sound Doctrine in These Times
- The Distractions of False Doctrines

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

2 Peter 3:10-14

I. The Times we are Living In and Our Response in these Times

A. We live in perilous times.

Matthew 24:3-13

If we want to receive that eternal goal, we must endure.

We must preserve and stand firm in Christ.

2 Timothy 3:1-7

Perilous- dangerous, violent; dangerous; hard

God is giving us understanding of these times so that we are not surprised and that we are prepared.

- **Lovers of themselves**—self-centered, conceited,
- **Lovers of money (Covetous)**—greedy for money
- **Boasters**—braggarts, full of great swelling words.
- **Proud**—arrogant, haughty, overbearing.
- **Blasphemers**—evil speakers, abusive, foulmouthed
- **Disobedient to parents**—rebellious, undutiful
- **Unthankful**—ungrateful, lacking in appreciation
- **Unholy**—wicked, impious, profane, holding nothing sacred.
- **Unloving (without natural affection)**—hard-hearted, unfeeling, heartless
- **Unforgiving (trucebreakers)** — refusing to make peace
- **Slanderers (false accusers)**—spreading false and malicious reports.
- **Without self-control (incontinent)**—uncontrolled passions, morally corrupt

- **Brutal (fierce)**—savage, unprincipled.
- **Despisers of good**—haters of whatever or whoever is good
- **Traitors**—treacherous, betrayers.
- **Headstrong (Heady)**—reckless, thoughtless.
- **Haughty (high-minded)**—making empty pretensions, conceited.
- **Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**—love sensual pleasures but not God.

Stay away from these people, don't let these people influence you.

B. Perilous Times Don't Change our Character

Galatians 5:22-25

The way we live is not a response to an external or outside stimulus, but it is in obedience to the Holy Spirit who enables us and directs us.

Matthew 5:3-12 (NLT)

³ *"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

⁴ *God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.*

⁶ *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*

⁷ *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ *God blesses those whose hearts are pure for they will see God.*

⁹ *God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.*

¹⁰ *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

¹¹ *"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.*

Luke 12:35-40

Believers are supposed to live in a state of readiness/preparedness for the coming of Christ.

2 Peter 3:3-9 (See the Message version)

³⁻⁴ *First off, you need to know that in the last days, mockers are going to have a heyday. Reducing everything to the level of their petty feelings, they'll mock, "So what's*

happened to the promise of his Coming? Our ancestors are dead and buried, and everything's going on just as it has from the first day of creation. Nothing's changed."

⁵⁻⁷ They conveniently forget that long ago all the galaxies and this very planet were brought into existence out of watery chaos by God's word. Then God's word brought the chaos back in a flood that destroyed the world. The current galaxies and earth are fuel for the final fire. God is poised, ready to speak his word again, ready to give the signal for the judgment and destruction of the desecrating skeptics.

⁸⁻⁹ Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Not only should we proclaim the word with our mouths, but we should proclaim the word with how we act, in season and out of season.

- In season: opportunely, opportune time
- Out of season: lack of a favorable opportunity, inopportune time