

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – December 24th, 2023**

**Theme:** The Urgency of the Last Days    **Topic:** Signs of the Times

**Main Text:** 1 Timothy 4:1-16, 2 Timothy 3:1-8

**Key verse:** 1 Timothy 4:16 - "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." (NKJV).

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**INTRODUCTION:** The sign of the times enumerated by Paul in his letters to Timothy were indeed prophetic. It is like picking up a current newspaper anywhere in the world today and trying to document the intrinsic character of present-day humans, the inter-personal relationship between humans and then, the relationship between humans and God who made them. In each of these cases, we see a marked negative deterioration in the sinful character of man who the Bible tells us, in Genesis, was created in the image and likeness of a perfect God. As if to underscore His desire for Man's perfection, God calls Abraham in Genesis 1:17 to walk before Him and be perfect. Again, our Lord Jesus repeats the same call to perfection to us in Matthew 5:48. Knowing this, we must take heed ourselves to be godly and spirit centered, standing firm as disciples indeed of Jesus so that we can be good examples (light) for others to follow.

**1. Read II Timothy 3:2-4, II Timothy 3:7 (a.) In what ways can we identify man's prioritization of self and money? (b.) How have the 'modern' Christian messages promoted man's pride, boastfulness, unforgiving nature? (c.) Identify Popular Culture's promotion of the pursuit of pleasure. How can we avoid the traps without seeming to be "suffering" especially in the eyes of our young ones? (d.) Discuss how developing a godly character can be an advantage or disadvantage in these times**

2 Timothy 3:1-4 NKJV states "*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*". Dear Brethren, there is no greater time to contrast worldly character than now. We must in wisdom choose to develop holiness by deliberately and purposefully choosing to live in the spirit, having/producing fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22,23) as the manifestation of our lives rather than the worldly character that results from living in the flesh and conforming to the world.

**2. Departing from the faith, having a form of godliness, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons are signs of a people who are given to worship but have lost their way. (a.) Give examples of "a form of godliness" (II Timothy 3:5). How can we avoid this in the words of Christ? (b.) The focus on demons, demonology indicate a distraction from the true worship of God. Discuss re-focusing our prayer/worship life to avoid such pitfalls. Read Paul's advice in 1 Timothy 4:6-16.**

Jesus Christ, in eloquently summing up The Law, says in Matthew 22:39 NKJV "...and the second is like it: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself*". The expression of godly love towards one another is the ultimate expression of God's perfection in our lives. This is a sharp contrast from what obtains in the world today. In families, love between spouses is a challenge as divorce rates soar above 70% in many countries. Even Christian brethren find it difficult to trust one another as they tussle and quarrel in business and social relationships. These are signs of the last days. We must return to Godly love, encapsulated in the Holy Spirit, expressed in a spirit-led life.

**3. Read II Timothy 3:6, 1 Timothy 4:2 (a.) Discuss the role of the Church in protecting believers against deceitful "Men of God" who prey on weak members. (b.) How can today's Christian arm him/herself against false doctrines and deceit? (c.) What does a "conscience seared with hot iron" mean to you? (Read 1 Timothy 4:2 in NLT, AMP & TPT versions).**

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**Prayer:** *Our Dear Father, please give us the grace to live holy, exemplary spiritual lives in these last days, that we may be godly examples for all who are caught in the prevailing darkness and chaos that covers the world. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*