



How to THRIVE in the Last Day - 1 Timothy 3:1-9

Are we living in the last days? The answer to that question is, YES! A resounding YES!

- LGBTQA – Did I miss any letters? What other letters will be added? “P” is in the works – pedophilia. We are living in the last days.
- Defund police – We are living in the last days.
- CHAZ – CHOP – We are living in the last days.
- Legalized drugs for recreational purposes – we are living in the last days.
- Black Lives Matter Inc – We are living in the last days.
- Erase history by removing statutes – we are living in the last days.
- Fake News – We are living in the last days.
- Street rioting – We are living in the last days.
- COVID-19 Pandemic – We are living in the last days.
- Locust plague – We are living in the last days.

- Abortion (50 million world-wide every year or 125,000 every day) – We are living in the last days.

Understand that biblically the last days includes the entire period between the first century and Christ's return. I would also suggest that the last days actually began in the Garden of Eden and will conclude at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

I. The Last Days are Coming – 3:1

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

Are we seeing "*perilous times*" today? Again, I would say, YES!

The Greek word for "*perilous*" means difficult, dangerous, furious, or fierce. This kind of describes our culture today. We are living in some very dangerous times.

I'm 61 years old, and I have witnessed for many year's societal degeneration. It's happened like the analogy of the frog in the pan of water. Turn up the heat slowly and the frog will be boiled alive.

In the last days perilous time will come. Not might come, but will come.

Noah saw them. Lot saw them. Jeremiah saw them. Jesus saw them. Paul saw them. Timothy saw them. And I have no doubt that we will see them too.

II. The Last Days will be Terrible – 3:2-9

²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! ⁶For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Most Bible teachers say that there are 19 characteristics of what we should expect from people in the last days. Warren Wiersbe writes, “The heart of every problem is a problem of the heart.” This list of characteristics all flows from bad hearts. Let’s walk through them, and see if these characteristics are a part of what we see in our society/culture today.

Charles Spurgeon, a preacher who lived between 1834 and 1892 said of these verses, "This is a photograph of the present age." Remember, he lived in the 1800's.

1. Lovers of themselves - 3:2

People will be self-centered and narcissistic.

2. Lovers of money – 3:2

People will chase after the almighty dollar instead of the Almighty God.

3. Boasters – 3:2

This is the outward manifestation of the fact that inwardly they are not humble.

4. Proud – 3:2

They are arrogant.

5. Blasphemers – 3:2

This word means that they are abusive towards others. They will speak evil of other people.

“Several of the words which follow begin in the Greek with the prefix *a=*, meaning “without” (as in moral-amoral, theist-atheist), signifying absence of the designated virtue.”¹

6. Disobedient to parents – 3:2

The Greek word for “*disobedient*” is *apeitheis*. We can get the word “atheist” from this word. It means they will not follow the God of their parents.

By the way, this happened because government laws took away parental rights.

As I looked at these next characteristics, I saw what I call the Un-generation.

7. Unthankful – 3:2

They will show not gratitude.

8. Unholy – 3:2

The absence of what is right and good.

9. Unloving – 3:3

¹ Litfin, A. D. (1985). [2 Timothy](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 756). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

They will not show love. They will be without love. They are unable to give or to show love towards others.

10. Unforgiving – 3:3

The Greek word here is “Diaboloι” which is usually translated “devil”.

11. Slanderers – 3:3

This too is another characteristic of the devil. He is the great slanderer.

12. Without self-control – 3:3

They won't have self-control in any area of their lives.

13. Brutal – 3:3

The idea here is that they are untamed, or that they are not civilized.

14. Despisers of good – 3:3

They will not be characterized by anything good.

15. Traitors – 3:4

They will be quick to betray family, friends, and nation.

16. Headstrong – 3:4

Some translations use the word, rash. They will be disposed toward total recklessness.

17. Haughty – 3:4

They will be conceited – puffed up.

18. Lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God – 3:4

It is all about how one feels, and not for what is upright. They will live for the god of self-pleasure, and not the God who created them.

The cry of Rome was, “Give us bread and the circus.” People today want free food, and to be entertained.

19. Having a form of godliness, but denying its power – 3:5

The word “*form*” means outward shape. Their form will be deceiving.

Although these are characteristics that were predicted for the last days, Paul writes that they were already evident in Ephesus where Timothy was the pastor. Take a look at verses 6-9,

⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

- Creep into households and make captives of gullible women – 3:6
- Always learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth – 3:7

Spurgeon again said, “This is the very motto of the present age.”

- Resist the truth – 3:8
- Men of corrupt minds (depraved) – 3:8

III. We can Thrive in the Last Days – 3:10-17

¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil

men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.²

Who wants to thrive and not just survive the last day? I don't believe that God just wants us to make it through the last days. No! I believe that God wants us to thrive through the last days. How can we thrive?

A. We will follow godly leaders – 3:10-11

- My doctrine – teachings that flow from Scripture. Doctrine determines behavior. What you believe determines what and how you live.
- My manner of life – watch your leader's behavior. Follow those who are living godly lives.
- My purpose – living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please Him in all that I do. Follow a leader who desires to glorify God.
- My faith – trust, full reliance upon God.
- My long-suffering – very patient, long-fused.

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (2 Ti 3:10–17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- My love – for God and other people.
- My perseverance – stick-to-it-ness, discipline.
- My persecutions – sufferings for Christ.
- My afflictions – very health issues.

B. We know what to expect - persecutions – 3:11-12

¹¹persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Paul faced some very hard and trying times. He mentions three cities where he was mistreated. They are:

- *Antioch (Acts 13:50) – driven out of the city by an angry mob.*
- *Iconium (Acts 14:5-6) – they narrowly escaped with their lives because of a conspiracy by Jews and Gentiles to stone them.*
- *Lystra (Acts 16:1) – hostile mob dragged him out of the city and left him for dead.*

Notice that Paul gives honor to God saying that the lord “delivered” him.

Paul went on to say that anyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus, will suffer for it. You and I can be assured of

this. Be a verbal and visual witness for Jesus Christ and you will suffer persecution.

Persecution for the sake of the gospel is inescapable.

C. We understand that things will get worse – 3:13

¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

There are people who believe that we shall enter a utopian society, and that things are actually getting better and better. This is not true. Things are not getting better – they are growing worse.

Error feeds on error!

D. We will continue in what we have learned – 3:14

We will thrive in the Last Days because we choose to continue in what we have learned. We have learned truth, and we will choose to walk in truth.

You and I must be convinced in what we have learned. Truth never changes!

How is your spiritual stamina? Will you keep going in the Christian life? (See these verses: Matthew 10:22; John 15:5; Luke 9:62).

E. We will stay grounded in the Holy Scriptures – 3:15-17

¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work

1. We won't deviate from them - 3:15

¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Don't deviate from that which you were taught since childhood. Don't waver from God's word.

**The B-I-B-L-E yes that's the book for me,
I'll stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E**

The Bible is called: Holy Scripture. Holy Scripture produces Holy Believer!

Scripture provides us with the way of Salvation through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). No other way of salvation (John 14:6). None!

- It is a narrow way – Matthew 7:13-14
- It is the only way – John 14:6
- There is no other way – Acts 4:12

2. We understand their value in life – 3:16

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

The Greek word for inspiration is “theopneustos”. It means God Breathed. The Bible is breathed (spoken) by God (2 Peter 1:20-21).

It is profitable. Which speaks of the Bible’s daily value. Valuable in four key areas:

- For doctrine – teachings and instruction. Truth we need to know.
- For reproof – pointing out our error/sin. What we have done wrong.
- For correction – telling us how to make things right. What’s right in life and behavior.
- For instruction – guiding us in the upright way.

3. We desire to be complete, and thoroughly equipped for every good work – 3:17

¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work

Do you and I have a desire to be a man or woman of God? Do we strive to thrive to be a man or woman of God? It won't just happen; we have to be intentional about it.

The word complete means fully mature, or full grown. It would be terrible of adults acted like small children all of their lives. When I was a child I acted like a child, but now that I am full grown, I put away my childish behavior. That's what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:11.

Do you and I want to be fully equipped for every good work? In light of all the evil work that is taking place today around us (in these last days) we need to be engaged in some good works – at home, and abroad, throughout the world.

Conclusion

Do you want to survive in the Last Days, or THRIVE in the Last Day? I personally want to THRIVE! How can we THRIVE?

1. Know the times in which we are living. These are the Last Days. The Last Days are not coming, they are now!

2. Learn how to navigate the perilous times among us. Choose to live godly lives. Make a difference today. Let Christ dwell in you. Have nothing to do with all the ungodly things in the Last Days.

3. Imitate godly leaders and become people of the Scripture. Saturate yourself in God's Word, and leak as you travel through your daily life. Help people that your life comes in contact with to taste and see that the Lord is good.