



THE FUTURE TODAY!

Prophecy Meetings

These are Perilous Times!

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Sermon given on October 10, 2021



Sunday Afternoon Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

These are Perilous Times!

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Opening Comments

- Welcome to the **FUTURE TODAY** prophecy meeting
- My topic for today is the Day of the Lord
- Turn to **2 Timothy 3**
- In the series through James, I have said that because the world has rejected God and His Word that it is going the wrong way and doing the wrong things
- A wrong way world cannot do what is right – not possible
- Some people would like to convince you that things will get better
- Paul seems to have another opinion
- **2 Timothy 3:1**
- ‘perilous times’ = hard to bear, fierce, violent
- There are many who believe that technology will make the world a better place
- Technology has made some parts of life easier, but not better
- In fact, it seems that technology is making it easier for evil to flourish
- The latest testimony to that is the big tech organizations like Google and YouTube censoring truth in favor of political ideologies
- Almost two-thousand years ago, Paul told us what kinds of people we would see influencing the world on social media and streaming on the internet
- **2 Timothy 3:2-4**
- You have heard the term ‘going viral’
- It is when a post is so popular that everyone shares it with everyone they know, and it gets hundreds of thousands or millions of views
- They almost always fall into one of these categories
- Because that is what the world wants because it is going the wrong way because they have rejected God and His Word
- And it is not just people in the world
- **2 Timothy 3:5**
- And sadly, as we look at the church today, we can see that Paul was right

- Not all churches, but many churches would receive the same rebuke that the church of Ephesus **Revelation 2:4**
I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.
- They have left the gospel of Christ, and are teaching a self-help gospel, or a social gospel, or a prosperity gospel
- Only the pure gospel of Christ will save anyone
- Even though the times are perilous, God calls us to be faithful and live godly lives
- **2 Timothy 3:10-12**
- Paul was an example to Timothy and to us of perseverance in perilous times
- And if you follow his example, you ‘will suffer persecution’
- Why? Because we are called to do what is right and stand up for what is right, and the wrong way world doesn’t want you to do that
- For example, this week the Department of Justice is asking the FBI to investigate local school board meetings where parents are standing up against mask mandates for children, or against curriculum that includes sexual perversion, or that confuses children about their sexual identity, or that teaches them to hate their own race or someone of a different race
- Also recently, the Democratic Governor of Virginia said that parents have no right to say what is taught to their children
- Some have even suggested that opposing the liberal agenda in the schools is the equivalent of domestic terrorism
- These are just a couple of things making the times perilous
- Paul goes on to say that the closer we get to Christ’s return the worse it will get
- **2 Timothy 3:13**
- Some might think that we should go undercover with our faith
- Paul doesn’t give us that as an option
- **2 Timothy 3:14-17**
- Regardless of how perilous the times become; God is calling His people to be faithful to Him – to trust Him through these perilous times
- To trust Him to lead, guide, and protect through us it all

- And yes, a godly life will lead to some amount of persecution
- Turn to **Revelation 2**
- At the time that John wrote the Revelation, Smyrna was experiencing severe persecution – much more than any of us will probably ever see
- Jesus dictates a letter to them
- **Revelation 2:8-11**
- Jesus doesn't promise to save them out of the persecution but to save them through it
- We are living in perilous times, and it is going to get harder and more dangerous the closer we get to Christ's return
- But we don't live in fear – God is with us – He will give us what we need to endure and to flourish even in perilous times
- Paul says in our text for today that the key is knowing, believing, and obeying God's Word and following the example of the godly examples that God has put into your life
- Let us boldly and faithfully carry the light of Jesus Christ out into the darkness of this wrong way world no matter how perilous the times become
- Pastor Randy will now share some of the other perilous things of our time