

“How To Live Dedicated in the Last Days”
II Timothy 3:1

Introduction: We must realize that the dispensation of the church will see the last days. These days are perilous, dangerous, and evil. It is amazing that for nearly 2,000 years, the gospel has been preached across the world, and morality seems to be getting worse. There is a spirit of lawlessness in the air, and it has even crept into the church. Although many a preacher has tried to combat it, he seems to be losing the battle. However, this should not surprise us because the Scriptures predicted this attitude in the last days. Observe:

1. Abundance of Sin Matthew 24:12- *“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold”*
2. Absence of Strength Luke 18:8- *“I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”*
3. Apostasy from Scriptures I Timothy 4:1- *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”*
4. Apathy in Spirituality Revelation 3:15-16- *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”*

Body: Although we may never see a worldwide revival, it should be our concern to live faithful and dedicated in these last days. If no one else serves the Lord, we should purpose in our heart, like Joshua, that we will. (Joshua 24:15- *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*) If we are to live faithful, then we must follow a few simple steps.

- I. We Must Guard II Timothy 3:1- *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come”*
 - A. Guard Love II Timothy 3:2- *“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy”*
 - B. Guard Lying II Timothy 3:3- *“Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good”*
 - C. Guard Loftiness II Timothy 3:4- *“Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”*
 - D. Guard Lives II Timothy 3:5- *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away”*
 - E. Guard Leading II Timothy 3:6- *“For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts”*
 - F. Guard Learning II Timothy 3:7- *“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”*

- G. Guard Loyalty II Timothy 3:8- *“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith”*
- H. Guard Luxury Revelation 3:17- *“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”*
- II. We Must Go Hebrews 10:25- *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”*
- A. The Assembly of the Believer- *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together”*
- B. The Absence of the Believer- *“as the manner of some is”*
1. Their Pattern- *“manner”*
 - a. *“If you come Sunday morning you love your Church. If you come Sunday night, you love your Pastor. If you come Wednesday night you love Jesus.” (Simpson)*
 - b. Your absence speaks volumes of your attitude:
 - (1) Says to Jesus—Your house is not important
 - (2) Pastor—Your sermons are a waste of my time
 - (3) Treasurer—There’s going to be a deficit
 - (4) Visitor—This church is not worth joining
 - (5) Member—Why don’t you stay out next Sunday
 - (6) Lost—It’s a waste of your time
 - (7) Neighbor—It’s not necessary
 - (8) Nation—Close the churches down
 - (9) Heathen—We don’t care if you go to hell
 - (10) Missionary—Why don’t you come home
 - (11) Sunday School Teacher—Why did you study?
 - (12) Choir Leader—Why did you practice?
 - (13) Children—Take it or leave it
 - (14) Hell—Fill it up
 - (15) Martyrs—You died a fool
 - (16) Young People—It’s just for kids and old folk
 - (17) Satan—Your business is more important
 - (18) Dying World—I don’t care! (Simpson)
 2. Their Penalty Hebrews 10:26- *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins”*
 (Since there is no sacrifice for willful sins, then the saint must pay for their sin while living on the earth.)
 - a. The Despite of Rebellion Hebrews 10:28- *“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses”*
 - b. The Disgrace of Rebellion Hebrews 10:29- *“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the*

blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

- c. The Damnation of Rebellion Hebrews 10:30- *"For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people"*
- d. The Destruction of Rebellion Hebrews 10:31- *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"*

C. The Actions of the Believer- *"but exhorting one another"*

D. The Attention of the Believer- *"and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"*

- 1. Church helps our Service Psalms 133:1- *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*
- 2. Church helps our Spirituality Romans 10:17- *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"*
- 3. Church helps our Sanctification John 15:3- *"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you"*
- 4. Church helps our Stability Ephesians 4:11-14- *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"*

III. We Must Get I Peter 3:20- *"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water"*

(We must realize that in these last days, not everyone loves the Lord. Therefore, we must be careful to get our own family "in the ship". What have we gained if we win others to the Lord, and lose our own family?)

- A. Because the Spirit is not Striving Genesis 6:3- *"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years"*
- B. Because the Ship is for Saving Genesis 7:1- *"And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation"*
 - 1. Genesis 7:7- *"And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood"*
 - 2. Genesis 7:13- *"In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark"*

3. Genesis 7:23- *“And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark”*
4. Genesis 8:16- *“Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee”*
5. Genesis 9:18- *“And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan”*

Conclusion: Even though apostasy, apathy, and arrogance over sin may reign in the last days, we should aim to live pleasing unto our Lord. It is imperative that we be on the guard against sin, go to church, and try our best to get our own family on “the ship”. If we tend to our lives as the Bible directs us, then we can live dedicated in the last days.