

Introduction: The disorienting power of “unexpected” evil

Don't allow current and future events to undermine your confidence in God's purposes and promises for you and the world.

- Paul warns of increased wickedness in the “last days.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - What are the “last days”? 2 Timothy 3:1
Hebrews 1:1-2
2 Peter 3:3-9
Isaiah 5:20
 - What characterizes increased wickedness? 2 Timothy 3:2-4
 - How are we tempted to interpret these developments?
 - How are we to respond to these developments? 2 Timothy 3:5
- 2 temptations: compromise or isolate

Application

- Paul gives Timothy current and ancient examples to boost his confidence and ours
 - The current 2 Timothy 3:6-7
 - The ancient 2 Timothy 3:8
 - The outcome of both 2 Timothy 3:9

Don't be afraid; keep pressing ahead

- How?
 - Remember your _____ progress. 2 Timothy 3:10-11
 - Remember persecution is _____. 2 Timothy 3:12-13
 - Remember God's Word is _____. 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Summary

In a world where evil is called good and light is called darkness, we are tempted to wonder: “where is God and how could He allow such wickedness, destruction, and evil to reign?”

We are in the last days and the intensity of evil is rising, even as the gospel’s progress is exponentially expanding around the world. We can’t be shocked by the persecution and must remember we have all we need in His Word, His Spirit, and one another to be faithful, strong, and prepared to do His will.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you responded to the current rapid decline in morality and increase in violence in our world?
2. Why is it vital that we relate to our world out of a “hope focus” rather than a “fear focus”?
3. How did Timothy develop the conviction to stay strong even amidst his fears according to v. 10-11? How does this encourage you today?
4. How will following Paul’s counsel in verses 14-16, impact your personal walk with God, and your relationships with your kids and grandkids?