



In the last days, people will be lovers of self rather than lovers of God. Stay away from people like that. To live out the last days, one must be God-centered rather than self-centered.

Setting the Scene:

- **Last Days**- Period after the Resurrection to present-day and up to Jesus's return.
- **Difficult**: *chalepos* (χαλεπός, 5467) "hard," (a) "hard to do or deal with, difficult, fierce," is said of the Gadarene demoniacs, Matt. 8:28; (b) "hard to bear, painful, grievous," said of the last times, 2 Tim. 3:1, RV, "grievous," for KJV, "perilous."¹
- **Time**: Seasons, from time to time, Fierce waves

kairos (καιρός, 2540), primarily, "a due measure," is used of "a fixed and definite period, a time, season," and is translated as "opportunity" in Gal. 6:10 and Heb. 11:15.²

- 2 Timothy is the last letter from the Apostle Paul; he is awaiting execution in a small, dank prison. He is passing the call of God to Timothy. These are the last words of Paul. He brings us to the edge of death, forcing us to consider its reality and how we might react when faced with it. His mind was not on himself, focusing on all the wrongs done to him. He trusted the God of the Universe had him right where He wanted him.

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 1 Timothy 4:6

In the Last Days...

1. Times will get more complex, not easier. (vs. 1)

- The road of Jesus is narrow and often dangerous, complicated, and costly. We dread the thought of suffering. Sometimes the most significant concern would be whether or not evil will affect our way of living.

2. People Will Love Only Themselves (vs. 2-4)

- Christ-followers experience self-worth by a right relationship with God. Our worth to God has nothing to do with our financial resources, jobs, accomplishments, appearances, or skill set. These pursuits lead to a life of self-worship. These pursuits lead to pride and will deaden our walk with God.
- The world says you are the center of life, but this is a lie. We must move from a self-centered life to a God-centered life.
- We know we have value because of the cross!

²*I said to the LORD, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you." Psalm 16:2*

- Christian love is selfless and unconditional, whereas the world's love is defined by selfishness.

"At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." Ann Landers

Sewer Pipe of Being in love with one's self

- **Love only Money**- Our nature is to be materialistic. Remember, it is the love of money, not money in itself, that is the root of all kinds of evil. People are going to use people to get their things and fulfill their love for themselves. Here is the danger; we love ourselves, love money, we will get to a point where we will be about a standard of living than we are about other people's lives. When you lose something, you can tell how much you loved it.

¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 234). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

² Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 449). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

- **Boastful and Proud** – In words and thoughts.
- **Scoffing at God**- Blaspheme God, slandering God.
- **Disobedient to Parents** – Insolent, a symptom of how they respond to all authority.
- **Ungrateful**- Never content, rejecting God's grace in your life and dishonoring to God.
- **Consider nothing sacred** – Unholy, People who set aside God in order to live only to please themselves can only go one direction—toward wickedness. They instinctively resist anyone or any ideas that would force them to measure themselves by God's standards.
- **Unloving** – Used only other place (Rom. 1:31), Inhuman, people who love only themselves.
- **Unforgiving** –filled with extreme bitterness and anger over own hurts, unable to forgive even when presented with an opportunity.
- **Slander** - diabolos(Devil) – Speaking falsely, deceitful
- **No Self Control**
- **Cruel**- Savage and brutal
- **Hate** what is good- Despise anything good.
- **Betray their friends**- Traitors, ready and willing to betray anyone. In some cases, so they can be enriched or out of vengeance.
- **Reckless**: "headstrong" (NKJV) and "rash" (NIV). Such people act foolishly and carelessly, completely unconcerned about the consequences for themselves or others. The word *headstrong* includes their determination to have their own way, regardless of advice to the contrary.
- **Puffed up with Pride**- Literally in the Greek, swollen with conceit. They exaggerated their opinion of themselves.
- **Love Pleasure rather than God.** - A point in life when your desires are your greatest pursuit.
 - Pleasure is something we can control.
 - Pleasure is about the moment.
 - Please can be addictive.
 - Pleasure feeds on pride.

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, **take up your cross**, and **follow me**. ²⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?^[a] Is anything worth more than your soul? Matthew 16:24-26

3. Stay Away From Fake People (vs. 5)

This is clear from the context because in verse 5, where Timothy is commanded in the present tense to "[h]ave nothing to do with them," the "them" is the false leaders of "the last days" whom Paul so scathingly describes in verses 2–4.³

¹³These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

- Don't settle for comfort without commitment. Stand up against evil by living as God would have his people live.
- Don't allow evil to continue unchecked in the body of believers.
- Redeem your time.

One Last Thought: Self Satisfaction = No Satisfaction
Satisfying God = Incredible satisfaction

³ Hughes, R. K., & Chapell, B. (2000). [1 & 2 Timothy and Titus: to guard the deposit](#) (p. 222). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.