

DISCUSSION QUERIES

2 Timothy 3:1–4:8

READ 3:1-5a

1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. (ESV, 2016)

DISCUSS

(A) When do the “last days” start?

- At the first coming of Messiah Jesus (Heb. 1:2)
- At the pouring out of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28).
- At the coming Day of the Lord. (2 Thess. 2:2, 11)?

(B) In what ways do we ourselves maintain a form of evangelicalism, whilst “denying its power”?

- Fear of becoming like on-line charlatans.
- Rationalistic scientism wherein we expect nothing miraculous.
- Symbolical baptism, communion and prayers that we say do nothing for us.

READ 3:5b-7

5 Avoid such people. 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

DISCUSS

(C) What are Christian charlatans and mega-church clergy most known for in the world?

(D) Is it only women who are misled by godless clergy and charlatans? (“Weak women” gunaikarion = derogatory, neuter noun.)

READ 5:8-9

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

DISCUSS

(E) As Jannes and Jambres were able to replicate some of Moses’ miracles, what can we expect from fake clergy and charlatans?

(F) Whose task is it to go around exposing fake clergy and charlatans?

DISCUSSION QUERIES — 2 TIMOTHY 3:1–4:8

READ 3:10-11

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

DISCUSS

(G) When authorities bring unfair or illegal charges against us, how must we behave? And what should we expect from the Lord?

READ 3:12-13

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

DISCUSS

(H) In the last days, which Christians will most likely be targeted for unfair treatment?

- Those who lead a godly life.

(I) Which Christians will have an easy time of it?

- Impostors

READ 3:14-15

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

DISCUSS

(J) Besides going fishing with grandchildren, what else should we do with them?

- Read sacred writings to them and with them.

READ 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

DISCUSS

(K) What should be one of our highest priorities as the End-of-Days approach?

- Learning,

- obeying and

- teaching Scripture (Ezra 7:10).

DISCUSSION QUERIES — 2 TIMOTHY 3:1–4:8

READ 4:1-2

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

DISCUSS

(L) Define “preach” by three activity verbs:

- Reprove (point out mistaken ideas)
- Rebuke (expose wrong behavior)
- Exhort (strengthen the repentant)

(M) Refine “preach” by two character traits:

- Patience (waiting on God to grant change)
- Teaching (waiting on God for useful content)

READ 4:3-5

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

DISCUSS

(N) What do charlatans offer to the godless?

- Excuse their passions.
- Fascinating myths.

(O) What is a strong character trait of effective evangelists?

- Sober minded
- Endure suffering

READ 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

DISCUSS

(P) What reward awaits those who remain loyal to Jesus through persecution or suffering?

- Righteousness (being fit for all that God wants to give to us).

(Q) When?

- At the Lord’s appearing