



Perilous Times

- By the inspiration of God, in 2 Timothy 3.1 Paul writes, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.”
- What does “perilous” mean? Perilous means 1) hard to take, hard to approach, 2) hard to bear, troublesome, dangerous, hazardous
- Paul was instructing young minister Timothy, but by the inspiration and preservation of God these words are also given to us. Paul wants Timothy to know these things shall come. God wants us to know and not be surprised when these times come, he has told us and warned us. God is an all-knowing God and nothing is a surprise to him.
- Reference is made to the “last days”. This is different from “the last day” which is reference to the second coming of Jesus Christ. What are the “last days”? A quick bible search helps us understand when this time period is referenced. In the Old Testament we find Isaiah 2.2 “And it shall come to pass in the last days, [that] the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.” Similarly we find in Mic 4:1 “But in the last days it shall come to pass, [that] the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.” This is in reference to the establishment by God of His Church Kingdom on this earth. It is a fulfillment of the prophecy of the last kingdom found in Daniel 2:44-45. Literally the visible church began in the city of Jerusalem (Lu 24.47) which was a mountain in that area. We also find in Heb 1.2 that the writer of Hebrews (Paul) was living in the “last days”. The last days began when our Saviour Jesus Christ came down from heaven and was manifest in a body over two-thousand years ago. We are now in the last days.
- As 2 Tim 3 continues, we surely can relate to the times that are described and another definition of perilous times.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim 3.2-7)
- Doesn't this sound like the times that we live in?
- How should God's children react to these times?
 1. We should not be surprised because God has told us of such times.
 2. We should not despair, be afraid, or lose courage. This can happen and many times does happen to us but it is usually because we have taken our eyes off of Jesus and starting looking at men, ourselves, the government, or many other things for our trust, our hope, or our deliverance. It happened to Peter when he was walking on water (Mat 14.30). God is the great I AM. He has been, is now, and will always be our deliverer, our salvation, and our hope. He only is worthy of our trust and hope. (Ps 56.3, De 31:6, Jos 1:9, Ps 27:14)
 3. Paul says, “This know also” because there were many other fundamental things that Timothy already knew and had experienced regarding his God. Paul's experience in following the Lord was filled with perils (2 Cor 11.26). Timothy had also known of what Paul had gone through as is described in this text (v.10-11) but “out of them all the Lord delivered me.” Perils can come in different ways. It could be wars, enemies, starvation, weather, affliction, loss of a loved one, persecution, tough economic times, relationship troubles, or even a pandemic.
 4. What can we do? What should we do in such uncertain times, such troubled times? God gives us the answer, “continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of,



knowing of whom thou has learned them" (v. 14). Our faith is often tested and surely it is being tested now. Put your training to use. Have you been blessed to know the doctrines of God? (v.10) Has God blessed you to see Him, to see how BIG he is? How sufficient he is? How loving he is? Has he blessed you to have hope in Him? Has he blessed you to see him in his word? Has he put his spirit in you and made you cry "Abba Father"? Have you been blessed to see that you are a sinner saved by His grace? Has God changed your heart and made it to feel spiritual things? Given you eyes to see him and spiritual things? Given you ears to hear spiritual things? Are these not things that you know? We should continue in these things. Though all is changing all about us, God has not changed nor can he change (thank goodness). "For I [am] the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (Mal 3:6) When our little ship is being tossed in this world of uncertain and perilous times, we should continue to have our trust and hope anchored in the Lord. In good times and in bad times we can and should always be anchored in the work of the Godhead. "Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast," (Heb 6:19).

5. Don't focus on the many things that we do not know but on the things that we do know and be been taught. Luke gospel opens with a "declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us." (Lu 1.1) As we each run the race set before us, our race, may we keep our eyes, our hope, and our trust, on the forerunner Jesus Christ. (Heb 12.1-2) Focus on HIM that we know. He who has revealed himself to us. He who has loved us even before the foundation of the world with an unchanging and eternal love. He cares for us!
6. Though these are perilous times, our ship can withstand the raging waves and rain that may come down on us because we have an anchor that cannot be moved. Also remember that he is the captain of our salvation (Heb 2.10)
7. Encourage others. (Isa 41:6) Shine your light that God has put within you that your Father in Heaven might be glorified. (Mat 5.16) If the Lord has done a wonderful work in your heart, you should have a reason to see things differently and act differently.
8. Be ready to give an answer for the hope within you. (1Pe 3:15) Others may take notice (and should notice) that although you go through the same troubled times, you do not become down and discouraged. They may wonder and ask how this is. Be ready to tell them about your great God and how he delivered, is delivering, and will deliver at the last day. (2Co 1:10)

If it is God's will, may he use these words to your good and to His glory.