

**THEME:     Avoid all ungodliness at all costs .... all the time.**

READ TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:6-9

**1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.**

**I.     Avoid Ungodly Sinners - (review verses 1-5)**

- A. "in the last days difficult times will come" - (vs.1)
- B. People will increase in ungodly living - (vs.2-4)
- C. They will masquerade a false religious exterior - (vs.5a) (c.f. Matthew 7:15-20)
- D. Avoidance — not association — is the command - (vs.5b)

**II.    Beware of Ungodly Leaders - (verses 6-7)**

- A. Ungodly Leaders arise from the same group as in verses 1-5 - ("among them")
  - c.f. Acts 20:28-30; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- B. Ungodly Leaders prey on the broken and unprotected - (vs. 6)
- C. Ungodly Leaders attract people with the same sinful impulses they have - (vs.6)
- D. Ungodly Leaders may grow in popularity, but not in truth - (vs.7b)

**III.   Rejection of the Ungodly - (verses 8-9)**

- A. "Jannes and Jambres" - (not mentioned in the Old Testament)
- B. Ungodly teachers are in contrast to true Bible teachers - (vs.8)
- C. Ungodly Leaders have no lasting part in true Christianity - (vs.9)

- D. Ungodly Leaders are temporary hindrances - (vs.9) - c.f. Matthew 16:18
- E. Ungodly Leaders will be unmasked in due time (vs.9) - c.f. Jude 1-25

POINTS OF CONSIDERATION:

1. Sinfulness is getting worse; both inside and outside of the church.
2. False teachers are men-pleasers who seek gain from their followers.
3. False teachers prey upon the weak, the unprotected, and the vulnerable.
4. They are many *Judas Iscariot's* in modern-day Christianity.
5. We must realize that the church is in spiritual warfare; a warfare that will intensify as Christ's second coming draws nearer.
6. We must be doctrinally discerning, evaluating every message against the truth of God's Word. (*"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the Word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."* Acts 17:11)
7. We must live pure and holy lifestyles, being vessels of honor for the Lord's good use.
8. We must be patient as God does His work around us and through us and to us.
9. Regardless of whatever ungodly influences are around us, nothing can take away our salvation!
10. Although we must avoid ungodliness, we are still ambassadors of Christ with a Great Commission mandate to share the gospel with sinners.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is spiritual discernment so important for us today?
2. How can you determine if a "Christian Leader" is a false prophet or not? What are some of the criteria we should use to determine this?
3. Why is sinful living, particularly by those in the church, increasing at such an alarming rate, and what can we do about it?
4. What are some things you can do to help protect people who are broken and vulnerable, from false teaching and a lack of discernment?
5. Discuss a time in your life when you or someone close to you has been negatively influenced by false teaching and/or false prophets.