

**Unsurprised and
Persistent Ministers**

2 Tim 3:1-9



Google



**Unsurprised and
Persistent Ministers**

2 Tim 3:1-9

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:6–7

By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

2 Timothy 1:14

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Persistent Ministers of the Gospel:

- Realize the depravity of the “last days.”

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

THE LAST DAYS

- Acts 2:16-17
- Hebrews 1:2
- Time between 1st & 2nd coming of Christ

Persistent Ministers of the Gospel:

- Realize the depravity of the “last days.”

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

“This means that the invincible joy we know as believers because of the work of Christ and our new, secure relation to God our Father, does not depend on the absence of moral ugliness or the absence of physical danger.

We need not and we must not let the immorality and horrors of the last days dampen our joy in Jesus. This is one of those strange, deep complexities of Christian holiness.

Oh how easy it is to slip into a morose pity-party that our little heaven on earth is becoming a hell!

We were never promised that earth would be our heaven before Christ returns. And you are preparing for yourself a great disappointment if you try to make it so.” *John Piper*

Persistent Ministers of the Gospel:

- Understand people have a worship issue more than a behavior issue.

For people will be...

²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

2 Timothy 3:2–3

treacherous, reckless, swollen with
conceit, lovers of pleasure rather
than lovers of God,

2 Timothy 3:4

²For people will be lovers of self,
lovers of money, ...

^{4b} lovers of pleasure rather than
lovers of God,

³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37–39

...sin causes all of us to exchange worship and service of the Creator for worship and service of the creation. The position that God was to have in our lives gets functionally occupied by something in the creation. The catalog of things we worship is as wide as the catalog of things that God created.

So from the earliest moments of your child's life he or she will worship something. I don't mean intentionally or self-consciously, but your children will give their hearts to something.

If your child looks for identity in material possessions, they will be all too focused on physical things and materialistic in their approach to life. If they look to people to give them life, they will be a slave to the opinions of others and work too hard to please them.

If they look to get their inner sense of well-being from being in control, they will resist your authority as a parent and want to write their own rules. If they put themselves in God's position, they will be entitled, demanding, complaining, needlessly competitive, and proud.

All the dysfunction, disobedience, disrespect, and resistance in the lives of your children, which distress you and make parenting hard, have worship roots.

All of the willingness, compliance, respect, responsibility, honor, peacemaking, and good choices, which cause you to celebrate, are rooted in worship too. Knowing this is foundational to doing what God has called you to do as you parent your children.

Persistent Ministers of the Gospel:

- Understand people have a worship issue more than a behavior issue.

- Who or what are the ruling affections of my heart?
- Who or what do I worship in my life as evidenced by my attitudes and actions?
- Is God the passion of my life as evidenced by my attitudes and actions?

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

Revelation 2:4-5a

Persistent Ministers of the Gospel:

- Discern when to distance.

having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

2 Timothy 3:5

- **Discern when to distance.**

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

2 Timothy 3:6–7

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.

2 Timothy 3:8

- Find confidence in who wins in the end.

But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

2 Timothy 3:9

God, Moses, & Magicians

- Exodus 7:11-12
- Exodus 7:22
- Exodus 8:6

God, Moses, & Magicians

The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. ... Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.”

Exodus 8:18–19

- Find confidence in who wins in the end.

But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

2 Timothy 3:9