

The University Heights Messenger

November 14, 2010

Haters of Good

By Connie Adams

Paul warned of “perilous times” during the “last days” (2 Tim. 3:1). “The last days” refers to the gospel age and not just the last few days of that age. Throughout the tenure of the last days there would arise times especially difficult for the Lord’s people, times which would test their faith and conviction and sorely try their patience. The very time in which Paul wrote this was “perilous” for believers. Many of the characteristics he listed in verses 2-7 were all too obvious even then. Half of the world was enslaved to the other half with every evil attending such a circumstance. Pagan religion distorted the true concept of God and promoted the grossest perversions, all in the name of the “gods.” In the midst of it all, the true Christian was an oddity. Peter said “*Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you*” (1 Pet. 4:4).

Look at Paul’s list of characteristics of those who would make the times difficult for the gospel--**2 Timothy 3:2-7**.

The context here indicates apostates who have rejected the faith. They manifest the same spirit and behavior as those who never knew the truth. But tell me, as you read through that sad list, did you recognize anyone you know? Are not these traits present in megadoses in our own time?

It is time for Christians in America to awaken to the fact that this is not a decent society anymore. Every sin in the book has been dubbed an “alternative lifestyle.” The political scene reeks of scandal. Negative campaigning is the order of the day. Confidence in elected officials is at an all time low. Social engineers have recommended every

sort of approach except for God and His Word to control alcoholism and other forms of drug abuse, unwanted pregnancies, and venereal diseases by pouring gas on the fire. Prohibition was bad, so it was argued that the government should issue a license to merchants to sell the stuff. Bars could offer “happy hours” for people on the way home from work during rush hour traffic. We had to have more sex education (without moralizing) and now students pass around condoms and other forms of birth control devices in classrooms, go on field trips to drug stores to inspect condoms and report back to class on their findings, or schools dispense these devices to high school students. They are told to practice “responsible sex” and then are given devices to help them be “responsible.”

Under the guise of clarifying values, students of all ages have their values scrambled so that they cannot tell the difference between right and wrong. The Bible cannot even be read in the classroom and school prayers are out. The only legal reference to the Bible is an effort to ridicule what it says about creation, morals, and human responsibility. And should some systems and teachers be so bold as to defy this mandate, there are high powered and well financed legal organizations ready to leap into action, drag the offender to court and wrap the educational system in a cocoon where they are shielded from the nefarious influence of the Word of God. Freedom of religion has come to mean freedom *from* religion. Good is called evil and evil is called good.

We might as well face the fact that we are in the minority. Your voice at the PTO meeting may be indeed a strange sound to many. Standing your ground at work on some matter of principle may expose you to ridicule, or even hinder a promotion. At school, you

may become what every teenager dreads--different. At home you may be the last hope of sanity in a domestic world gone crazy. But you CAN make a difference. You MUST make a difference. If a handful of unknown fishermen, a tax collector, and a militant member of the Jewish underground movement could be transformed into faithful servants of God whose lives changed the destiny of the world, then surely there is something WE can do in our own time. Faithfully, persistently, and militantly they preached and practiced what Jesus taught them. Whatever has been decent in men of every nation since that time is directly traceable to what they did in fulfilling the Lord's mandate to "go into all the world" with the gospel. The gospel is still God's power to save. As it saves, it changes not only the lives of those it saves, but the environment around those saved by its power. They are a genuine blessing at work, at home, at school, at play, and in the government. I'm not talking about imitation Christians, hypocrites who disgrace the name of Christ, but about the genuine article.

Let's make sure that we are "lovers of good" and that we give no ground to those who are truly "haters of good."

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Vera Howerton received a favorable report from her doctor. She is to have a CAT scan and stints replaced soon, yet her doctor has been pleased with her progress.

Donald Dawson, father-in-law to Jay Dixon, had a cancerous tumor removed from his neck. It is thought that all the cancer was removed yet time will tell. Donald is not a Christian and Jay requests prayers for that even more than the cancer.

Our members: **Glenn Davis, The Tirey's, Glenn Kimberlin, Janet Brundige**

Others: **Ann Sego, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Sara Phillips, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Kay Montgomery, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Vera Howerton, Gail Stein, Glenn Goldy, Shannon Gilbert, Chuck McDavitt,**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Streaming Bible study every Tuesday at 7. This time we will begin at Mark 2:12. Please remember to tell people about this effort.

Brother Ed Hurley is preaching for us this morning.

The men's meeting is this afternoon at 3:00.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sunday: Isa 46-48, Ps 97, Acts 21

Monday: Isa 49-51, Ps 98, Acts 22

Tuesday: Isa 52-55, Ps 99, Acts 23

Wednesday: Isa 56-58, Ps 100, Acts 24-25

Thursday: Isa 59-62, Ps 101, Acts 26

Friday: Isa 63-66, Ps 102, Acts 27

Saturday: Jer 1, Ps 103, Acts 28

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. Guest Speaker

Sunday PM. Non Transferable
(Isaiah 3:10-11)