***Difficult Days Call For Faithful Ways***

**2 Timothy 3 - 6/30/19**

*How does God call me to more faithful ways*, *during these difficult days?*

Christians have always been aware that during the last days, difficult times will come both for our culture and for Christ's Church.

**2 Timothy 3:1-5**

1) By Desiring Genuine Godliness, While Avoiding Those Without

There are those who want to be seen as good or even spiritual people, but they're not truly following God (relationship).

There are those who pick and choose when to obey God and when not to; and Paul gave a rather blunt application - Avoid such people.

**1 Corinthians 5:9-13**

It is particularly important for Christians to make a clear separation from those who claim to be Christians, but whose actions say otherwise.

If we choose to not live godly lives, the church will lose its power and witness.

Church, we need to ask ourselves: "Do I see any of me in vs.'s 2-4?"

If so, then repent and come/return to Christ so we might become the antithesis of vs. 5.

**2 Timothy 3:6-9**

2) By Keeping Guard From Imposters, While Exposing Their Counterfeit Customs

Paul singles-out a particular group, namely, leaders and teachers of false religions/cults, whose character and methods remain today.

They speak about God, the Bible and Jesus - although they don't believe what the Bible says about these.

Jesus said that the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour (in our weakness, isolation and sin-sickness).

We see how important truth is as it relates to the Bible; so know your Bible and make your faith your own, then in turn, you can lead others to a knowledge of the truth.

It's interesting how with many things, what's real and authentic will often have counterfeits. The same is true in the spiritual realm. But instead of financial gain, the enemy uses false teachers and their adherents in order to gain souls.

It is "folly" (foolishness) to try and minimize or even detract from God's glory as in the end, people will fail.

**2 Timothy 3:10-13**

3) By Being An Example, While Trusting God In Trials **\*Vs.10+11**  **\*Vs.11*c***

Paul learned how to trust God in trials. When you're going through it, learn to trust Him.

*"You can travel first class or second class to heaven. Second class is, 'When I'm afraid, I will trust.' First class is, 'I will trust, and not be afraid.' So why not take a first class ticket?"* - D.L. Moody

In this world we're blind about what course to take, so we must rely solely on the Word of the only One Who is truly sighted - God Himself. His Word gives us the direction we need to finish the course.

As we do so, the Lord will rescue us "*out of them all*" **(Vs.11*c*)**... Yet it might not be how you want it to be.

He was *with* Paul through it all, never leaving his side.

**2 Timothy 3:14-17**

4) By Knowing The Sacred Writings So We Can Be Convinced & Equipped **\*Vs.14**

It begins at home, where we're taught ("*convinced*"/convictions) - "*knowing from whom you've learned them*"... Family!

Even though this should be the case, it's really not enough... Having become a pastor, they had to become his own.

These holy writings, which give "wisdom that leads to salvation", have to be sought-out... As seen in Proverbs. **Proverbs 3:13-15 - Proverbs 8:22+23**

As we get to know these sacred writings, look at one of the great results (**2 Timothy 3:16**). We become convinced of its source!

The Bible was inspired/"breathed" by God; And as we inhale it, it gives *life*!

**\*Vs.16*b* \*Vs.17**

Know that during these dark, difficult days, God has equipped us fully.