

[The Book of 2 Timothy](#)

Chapter 3

“Perilous Times”

[Go to 2 Timothy Chapter 3 Part 2](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

The Destruction of Pompeii, 79 AD

On August 24, 79 A.D. Mount Vesuvius literally blew its top, spewing tons of molten ash, pumice and sulfuric gas miles into the atmosphere. A "**Firestorm**" of poisonous vapors and molten debris engulfed the surrounding area suffocating the inhabitants of the neighboring Roman resort cities of Pompeii, (pop 20,000)

Ten miles away, the luxurious town of Herculaneum (pop. 4,000) was buried by waves of volcanic mud, which flowed down dry stream-beds on the side of Vesuvius with sufficient force to crush buildings

Tons of falling debris filled the streets until nothing remained to be seen of the once thriving communities. The cities remained buried and undiscovered for almost 1500 years until excavation began in 1748. These excavations continue today and provide insight into life during the Roman Empire.



Vesuvius erupts in 1944



An ancient voice reaches out from the past to tell us of the disaster. This voice belongs to **Pliny the Younger** whose letters describe his experience during the eruption while he was staying in the home of his Uncle, Pliny the Elder. The elder Pliny was an official in the Roman Court, in charge of the fleet in the area of the Bay of Naples and a naturalist. Pliny the Younger's letters were discovered in the 16th century.

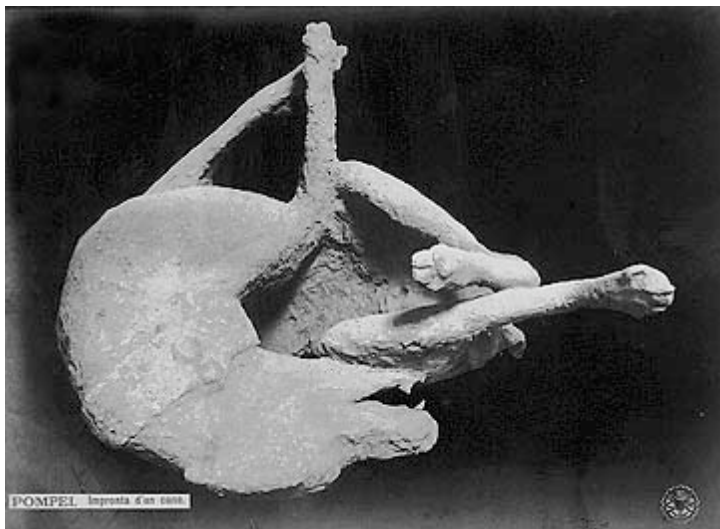
"My uncle was stationed at Misenum, in active command of the fleet. On 24 August, in the early afternoon, my mother drew his attention to a cloud of unusual size and appearance. He had been out in the sun, had taken a cold bath, and lunched while lying down, and was then working at his books. He called for his shoes and climbed up to a place which would give him the best view of the

phenomenon. It was not clear at that distance from which mountain the cloud was rising (it was afterwards known to be Vesuvius);



The flames and smell of sulphur which gave warning of the approaching fire drove the others to take flight and roused him to stand up. He stood leaning on two slaves and then suddenly collapsed, I imagine because the dense, fumes choked his breathing by blocking his windpipe which was constitutionally weak and narrow and often inflamed. When daylight returned on the 26th - two days after the last day he had seen - his body was found intact and uninjured, still

fully clothed and looking more like sleep than death.



You could hear the shrieks of women, the wailing of infants, and the shouting of men; some were calling their parents, others their children or their wives, trying to recognize them by their voices. People bewailed their own fate or that of their relatives, and there were some who prayed for death in their terror of dying

Meals were on tables; commerce was being conducted in the marketplace. As archaeologists have reclaimed buildings, they have found loaves of bread in the ovens, dishes of walnuts on tables, and even fish scales wonderfully preserved

Over 10 feet of ash and debris fell on Pompeii burying everything except the roofs of some buildings. There are numerous molds of the people in their final moments preserved in the hardened ash. This mold of a dog was apparently chained to a post struggling to get out of the way of the massive ash that was raining down on the city.

1 Thessalonians 5:3

For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Do you know that the 20,000 residents of Pompeii were living in Peace and Safety when Sudden destruction came and buried them alive in 10 feet of ash?

We live in the period of time that the Bible has more to say about than any other time in history,

The final days just before Jesus returns for His church...And When Jesus descends from Heaven with a shout and removes all those who are waiting for Him, it will catch the entire world by complete surprise...

This is the topic of our study this morning as we make our way through the Entire Bible. We are in 2 Timothy chapter 3

2 Timothy 3

1 But know this, that **in the last days perilous times will come:**

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

“Per·il·ous” adj

Defined as: *“Involving exposure to very great danger”*

Jesus, in the final days of His ministry here upon the earth, spoke of those things that would be happening upon the earth to that final generation that would be alive, just before He returned:

Luke 21:20-27

20 “But when you see **Jerusalem surrounded by armies**, then know that its desolation is near.

22 For **these are the days of vengeance**, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

25 “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

26 **men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth**, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Before his death Jesus told the disciples that they would be put out of the synagogues.

- They would be persecuted or executed.
- Jesus said: *“I am telling you this so that you will not be offended.”*
- *“Don’t let your heart be troubled.”*

As Paul writes this second letter to Timothy. He knows that *“The Time of His own departure is at hand”*. Paul knows he is just days away from his execution.

- **So he writes to his Young Son** In The Lord, *“Timothy the difficult days are coming.”*
- **The thing that is of extreme importance**, is that these Difficult days that Paul wrote of, the **“Perilous Times”**, *“The Days of Vengeance where men’s hearts fail them from fear and the expectation of these things which are coming on the earth”* **ARE THE DAYS WE LIVE IN RIGHT NOW!**

2 Timothy 3

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
3 without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Are people today, LOVERS OF THEMSELVES, LOVERS OF MONEY, BOASTERS, PROUD, BLASPHEMERS, UNTHANKFUL, UNHOLY, UNLOVING UNFORGIVING, WITHOUT SELF CONTROL...and all of the other 19 things Paul describes here?

The thing that I find staggering about these first verses of 2 Timothy 3 is that Paul is talking about **those that claim to be believers!**

- **In the last days** just before Jesus returns, there will be plenty of **“Religion”**, and lots of **“Religious People”**, but not much genuine **“Relationship”** with Jesus.
- **The 19 characteristics** listed here will come from those who claim to be **“Religious”** people...

1. *lovers of themselves,*
2. *lovers of money,*
3. *boasters,*
4. *proud,*
5. *blasphemers,*
6. *disobedient to parents,*
7. *unthankful,*
8. *unholy,*
9. *unloving,*
10. *unforgiving,*
11. *slanderers,*
12. *without self-control,*
13. *brutal,*
14. *despisers of good,*
15. *traitors,*
16. *headstrong,*
17. *haughty,*
18. *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*

19. *having a form of godliness but denying its power.*

Notice that most of these 19 characteristics are centered on “Self”

- **In other words**, in the Last Days, the last days of the earth just before Jesus returns for His church, those that claim to know Jesus, will begin to do these 19 things...
- **If you ever wondered** if we were really living in the last days, as you read about these 19 things, you realize that Paul is describing the exact character of people that live in our world today.

Now if you are like me and have an Inquisitive mind, you are probably wondering how someone who claims to know Jesus could have as their Character, any of these 19 negative attributes.

Well, actually it is very easy today because there are many people that claim to know Jesus but then just live their life for their self.

The Bible teaches that there are 3 classifications of people in regard to Spiritual things: Paul in 1 Corinthians, describes them in detail.

Now in order to get to the true meaning, we are going to study the Greek words for these 3 kinds of people:

1. **The Natural Man**: The “**Psuchikos**”, the person directed by their feelings, emotions and senses. By Natural we mean, One born of Adam who has not been Born Again by the Holy Spirit.
2. **The Spiritual Man**: The “**Pneumatikos**”, the person directed by the Holy Spirit. By Spiritual we mean that this person has been “Born Again” of their Spirit as a result of receiving and believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life.
3. **The Carnal Man**: The “**Sarkiko**”, the person who has been Born Again by the Holy spirit but chooses to be directed by their flesh, their desires, and their emotions.

The natural Man may be a very well educated, gentle, eloquent speaking and fascinating person, but **the Spiritual meaning of the Bible is absolutely hidden** from them.

The Spiritual Man however is able and, has the capacity to, understand **all of the Spiritual content** of the Bible.

The Carnal Man, who is a believer in Jesus, has only the capacity to understand the “**Simple Truths**” of the Scriptures.

- When Paul was seeking to teach the “**Carnal Christians**”, the ones controlled by their flesh at the Church or Corinth, He told them that they were just “Babes in Christ, Still on the milk of the Word”.

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

1 And I, brethren, **could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.**

2 **I fed you with milk** and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

The Carnal Christian is controlled essentially by the same things that the Natural man or non saved person is controlled by. The Emotions, the circumstances of their life, and their feelings. Even though the believer in Jesus does not have to respond in the flesh, they choose to.

The Natural Man is controlled by their Flesh. Whatever the feelings want, whatever the emotions need, whatever the circumstances are, this person responds to them by their flesh.

1 Corinthians 2

14 But **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

The Natural man is controlled much in the same way that any animal is controlled. They just do what feels good. And they have no knowledge of understanding of anything Spiritual. To the Natural man, going to church is a Boring Waste of time.

The deeds of the flesh are the way that the Natural man responds to everything in their life:

Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the **works of the flesh** are evident, which are: **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,**

20 **idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,**

21 **envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries,** and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

The Spiritual Man is controlled by the Holy Spirit. Whatever happens to them in their life they respond in increasing frequency, in a Spiritual way.

- **The Spiritual person does not trust their feels** because feeling can change so easy and are very deceptive.
- **The Spiritual person** has all of the same kinds of problems that the natural man has in their life, but their response to them is far different.

Because the Spiritual man understands how the Lord works in Every Situation, they are able to trust the Lord to work everything out.

1 Corinthians 2

12 Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

- **The Fruit of the Spirit** is the way that the **Spiritual Man** responds to people, circumstances and even their own feelings.
- **They will not always respond this way**, but they will have an overwhelming desire to respond this way.
- **The Spiritual person** will find that they have increased success in the way they respond the Longer they pursue the Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-24

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

23 **gentleness, self-control.** Against such there is no law.

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Lets get down to the fundamental things here this morning. If you claim that Jesus is Lord and Savior of Your life then you have 2 choices.

1. **Be controlled and directed by your emotions**, and your feelings depending upon whatever is happening in your life.
2. **Be controlled by the Holy Spirit** by not trusting how you feel, but instead making a conscious effort to respond in one or more of the "**Fruits of the Spirit**", whenever something difficult comes your way.

You have the choice to:

- Love or Get Mad.
- Have Joy or Get Depressed.
- Experience Gods peace, or be in turmoil.
- Be longsuffering towards people, or just let them have it right between the eyes!
- Be kind (Rewind) or Be just as nasty back as they were to you.
- Look towards goodness, or devise evil plots.
- Be faithful to the Lord in your response or misrepresent Him by your own anger and pride.
- Be gentle and under control, or flame out in anger and get totally out of control.

YOUR CHOICE...

So then, in answer to the *How could people who claim to know Jesus, have these 19 self centered, fleshy attributes in their life in verse 2 of our study this morning?"* **question** “

- **Easy, in the last days, the days that we live in today**, many Christians, or at least those that claim to be Christians are **living by the desires of their flesh.**

- **There is very little difference** today between the behavior and lifestyle of the Christian and the average Good person that walks down the street.

If you find this morning that the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart of your own need to be controlled more by the Holy Spirit and less by your own feelings and emotions, then in just a few minutes, I will give you an invitation to stand where you are at and pray for greater power in this area...

2 Timothy 3

3 without natural affection...

If you saw the movie “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”, then you know that the Greeks have a very descriptive word for everything. I suppose that this is why the Lord chose the Greek language for the New Testament because it is so much more descriptive of what is actually being said than the English language.

There was one particular scene in the Greek Wedding Movie where the Greek Father made the statement that **“The Man is the Head of the Family”**.

The Greek Mother quickly returned, “Yes but the Woman is the Neck, that turns the head, any way she wants it to go...”

In the Greek language there are actually 4 words for Love.

1. **Phileo**: The Emotional love that we feel for someone. “you make me feel good”.
2. **Eros**: the Sexual love between a husband and a wife.
3. **Agape**: Which is a word that the Greeks had to invent after Jesus came, because this kind of love, the sacrificial love of God did not exist in the Greek language.
4. **Astergo**: Is the word that this verse **“Without natural Affection”**, was translated from. **Stergo** is the love that you have for your family, the love that a parent has for their child or a child for their parent, which is normally very strong.

The Holy Spirit is saying that in the last days people will begin to be with out this natural affection for even the members of their own family.

- **We see the manifestation** of this today in our last days society. Tremendous child abuse, Abortion for the purpose of birth control.
- **Children abandoning** their parents when they become old.
- **Homosexuality** is the loss of natural affection as Romans chapter 1 puts it:

Romans 1:26-27

26 ...For even **their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.**
Woman engaging in sex with each other.

27 Likewise also the men, **leaving the natural use of the woman**, burned in their lust for one another, men with men **committing what is shameful**, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Here in Romans, Women without the natural affection for a man, having sex with a woman, Men leaving their natural affection for a woman having sex with another man.

- **These would be characteristics** Paul says of the generation of the last days... *“Those without Natural Affection...”*

By the way, while we are on the subject with the Homosexual push to have a homosexual marriage recognized as the same as a marriage between a man and a woman.

- **This is also a sign** of the last days, *“...the lost of natural affection”*

The Homosexual priest that has been on TV last week endorsing the church to recognize gay marriage, made the statement that there are only 7 verses in the bible that deal with Homosexual behavior and they are all sort of sketchy but do not really condemn the relationship between a man and a man or a woman and a woman.

Excuse me!, Sketchy...is the verses I just read you sound like they don't condemn Homosexual or lesbian behavior?

“Committing what is Shameful” is not strong enough In Romans 1?

How about Sodom and Gomorrah, what was that all about...Oops I guess the Lord owes Sodom and Gomorrah an apology.

Genesis 13:12-13

12 So while Abram stayed in the land of Canaan, Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom, among the cities of the plain.

13 **The people of this area were unusually wicked and sinned greatly against the LORD.**

Genesis 18:20

So the LORD told Abraham, **“I have heard that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah are extremely evil, and that everything they do is wicked.**

Genesis 19:24-25

24 Then **the LORD rained down fire and burning sulfur from the heavens on Sodom and Gomorrah.**

25 He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, eliminating all life—people, plants, and animals alike.

Jude 1:7

as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having **given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

Leviticus 20:13

If **a man lies with a male** as he lies with a woman, **both of them have committed an abomination**. They shall surely be **put to death**. Their blood shall be upon them.

Yeah, maybe the Gay Priest is right, these verses are a little sketchy as to whether or not they condemn homosexuality! **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

2 Timothy 3

6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,

Some Greek men in this culture would prey on the wealthy widowed women by seeking to gain their trust and then persuade them to be involved with them in all kinds of drunken orgies...These will be the kinds of men that will live during the last days...

2 Timothy 3

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

There is a movement in the church today that is always looking for the newest and latest and most exciting thrill that is happening in the church.

- **A few years ago** it was “**Holy Laughter**” of the Rodney Howard-Browne Toronto Blessing Movement that had spontaneous uncontrolled laughter coming from the congregation.
- **These outbursts** could occur during worship or the teaching of the Word of God with people falling out of their chairs onto the floor in ecstatic laughter (*I know you want to do that when I teach*).
- **Sometimes the people in the congregation** would be heard barking like a dog or roaring like a lion or crowing like a rooster.

One of the signs of the last days is this uncontrolled zest for something new and exciting in the church instead of the simple, peaceful worship in music, and the teaching of the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;

In the story of Moses before Pharaoh in the Book of Exodus, Moses was told by the Lord to throw his staff down in from of Pharaoh and it would turn into a snake.

- **Pharaoh** apparently had two magicians that could duplicate this.
- **We never find out their names** in the book of Exodus, but here Paul tells us that there names were “Jannes and Jambres”

Exodus 7:10-12

10 So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

Even in the last days you and I will undergo tremendous resistance whenever we try to do something to stand in the gap for people or to serve the Lord.

- **Ask Those** that have come to pray with us twice a day for the last 5 weeks...

2 Timothy 3

9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was

There is a flaw in human nature that I have observed in those who deny that God exists or that there is a God. One of the rationale that they use is that all of the wrong that they are doing has no apparent consequences, there either is no God or He doesn't care what they are doing...BIG MISTAKE!

The writer of Psalm 94, comments on this:

Psalms 94:3-7

3 LORD, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph?

4 They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves.

5 They break in pieces Your people, O LORD, And afflict Your heritage.

6 They slay the widow and the stranger, And murder the fatherless.

7 Yet they say, "**The LORD does not see**, Nor does the God of Jacob understand."

Just because you are getting away with something doesn't mean that there never will be a price to pay.

- **The Lord is extremely patient and longsuffering.** People misinterpret this as a weakness on the Lord's part of an inability of Him to do anything about it.

"If there is a God and he doesn't like what I am doing, then why doesn't he stop me?"

Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses for awhile, but they reached a point where they could not duplicate what the Lord did through Moses.

- **The resisted God for awhile,** but there came a point where The Lord gave them more and more rope until finally they hung themselves.

Is the rope being rolled put in your life and it seems like you are getting away with what you are doing

Genesis 6:3

And the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

Matthew 12:36

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

2 Timothy 3

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

I have discovered that if you really live for the Lord and endeavor to live a righteous life and be an example, you can influence people in your life to also live this way.

One day, a young 5 year old boy by the name of **Seth** was sitting with his parents during communion.

He watched intently as His Dad took the bread and the Juice and then bowed his head to pray.

A few seconds later, His dad peaked to see what his unusually quiet son was up to.

He was intently watching his dad at prayer after taking communion.

Thinking that he had set a great example for his young son was short lived, as Seth leaned towards his dad and whispered:

“What’s in that stuff? You eat it and Go right to sleep?”

- **I think** we all need to see a pattern in someone, how Jesus affects their life.
- **When we see** by the way they live their life, that it has such wonderful and positive results, it naturally makes us want to imitate them.
- **I think this is a good thing**, something that we should all try to do with our life.
- **Bottom line, someone is always watching you, if you claim to know Jesus.** I have caused people to stumble by the things I say and do, and I have inspired them by my life to follow Jesus.

Mark twain once said that *“Fewer things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a Good Example”*

Pastor Chuck taught us that *“Ministry cannot be Taught it must be Caught”*

- **Here Paul tells this 17 year old pastor** to also follow the Doctrine, Manner of life, purpose faith longsuffering, love and other good qualities he saw in Paul's life.

It is very fulfilling to see others follow Jesus because they see a good pattern in your life. I would encourage you to endeavor to be such an example that people will want to follow Jesus because they saw how you follow Jesus.

2 Timothy 3

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

If you have one of those little “Pocket Promise Books” that have all of the wonderful promises from God to you, **I bet you will never find this promise** from the Lord in one of those little books.

We love the promises like:

Romans 8:37

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus

But not this one:

2 Timothy 3

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

Oh great, if I live for Jesus, All He__ (Double Hockey Sticks) is going to break loose. Just ask those that have come to pray with us everyday for the last 5 weeks!

2 Timothy 3

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But you must **continue in the things which you have learned** and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Timothy had the benefit of being taught the bible from the time he was just a Baby.

- **Paul tells him here** that he should continue in those things that he has already learned in the Bible.
- **Sometimes we begin** to learn the principles found in the bible, then after a couple of years we stop studying as much because we think we've got it now.
- **The minute we stop studying** the Bible everyday, we leave our self open for being deceived, by our own heart, and by others.
- **As Paul tells Timothy**, we need to *CONTINUE in the things we have learned.*

And the last 2 verses are the reason why...

[2 Timothy 3](#)

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible is not a human book.

- **It was not written** by human knowledge or intelligence.
- **The Bible is the handwriting** of God Himself.
- **It can be demonstrated** that the Bible was written from someone outside of the time domain.
- **It is the** “Owners Manual” for Life.
- **All of the pages** that you have in your Bible were “Inspired” that is, the Holy spirit told the men that wrote these things, exactly what to write.
- **As a result**, in the original manuscripts, the Bible is without error, completely accurate in every detail.
- **It does not just contain** the word of God, it is all the word of God.

Next Sunday we will take our study from these 2 verses, and I will tell you how the bible was Written, and why it is 100 percent accurate, and why you can trust it without any hesitation.

[Go to 2 Timothy Chapter 3 Part 2](#)
[Return to Table of Contents](#)