

2 Timothy 3

Verse by Verse

In the Last Days

Introduction

Conclusions

Who to Avoid
3:1-9

How to Resist
3:10-17

St. Paul, imprisoned, ends the letter to the Ephesians, and hands it over to Tychicus. Wood engraving, 1886, Gustave Dore (Wikimedia Commons)



Introduction

Previously in 2 Timothy

- In **2 Timothy 2**, Paul gave his younger assistant three illustrations, of a **soldier**, an **athlete** and a **farmer**.
- Doing God's work requires the qualities needed for any of these.

- **2 Tim 2:15** was also important,

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Surviving
Difficult
Times

What's in
2 Timothy 3?

Key Verses

Surviving Difficult Times

Ten Things to Do Now! - from thesurvivalistblog.net

1. 20 lbs. of rice and 20 lbs. of pinto 1. beans.

2. 5 lbs mixed beans, 5 lbs of white sugar, 5 lbs of iodized salt, one gallon of olive oil, 5 lbs oats, 10 lbs each of flour and cornmeal.

3. 20 cans of canned fruits and 20 cans of canned vegetables.

4. 20 cans of various meats, salmon, stews, spam and tuna.

5. Two 40-ounce jars of peanut butter.

6. Two 72 Ounce canisters of Tang Orange drink and six 19-Ounce Containers of Kool-Aid.

7. 400 tablets of "one a day" multivitamins.

8. Four five-gallon water containers.

9. 250 rounds of ammunition for your primary defensive weapon. More if you can, but this should be a good start.

10. The best LED flashlight you can afford, extra batteries and bulb. Also matches and lighters.

M. D. Creekmore
Author and
Expert Survivalist

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Another Possible Outline

- An alternate name for this chapter could be **"How to Survive in Difficult Times."**
- We will see that Paul's view of difficult times differs somewhat from the view of the average survivalist.
- Paul will detail for us
 - *Who to Avoid* 3:1-9
 - *How to Resist* 3:10-17
- ... in difficult time like these.
- His advice does not involve the buying of groceries.

Another Possible Outline

- We can think of these instruction to Timothy as:

"Four Things To Do Now!"

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Know the Cause of the Peril | 3:1-5 |
| 2. Know How the Peril Expands | 3:6-9 |
| 3. Be Willing to Face the Peril | 3:10-13 |
| 4. Be Well-Equipped for Survival | 3:14-17 |

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Key Verses in the Letter: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

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Who to Avoid 3:1-9

- In Paul's view the difficult times are mainly caused by a certain set of people.
- He spends the first nine verses encouraging Timothy to:
 1. Know the Cause of the Peril. 3:1-5
 2. Know How the Peril Expands. 3:6-9

The Cause of
the Peril

How the Peril
Expands

The Cause of the Peril

- **3:1 In the last days** Paul doesn't just mean in some far off future time. We see the term beginning with the first coming of Jesus.
- **Times of difficulty**
- **(NKJV) *perilous times***
- **(NIV) *terrible times***
 - Mounce defines it as "*difficult, harsh; violent, hard, rugged; furious, ferocious,*"
 - The Greek word is used only here and in **Matt 8:28** where it describes the demon possessed men of Gadara - the ones where the demons entered the pigs and drown them in the lake.

Hebrews
1:1-2

People in
These Times

Hebrews 1:1-2

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
2 but **in these last days** he has spoken to us
by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all
things, through whom also he created the
world.

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People in These Times

3:2-4 Various "**loves**" make the list describing these people.

- **Lovers of self**
- **Lovers of money**
- **Heartless** *ástorgos* = Unloving, inhuman, hard hearted, (KJV) "without natural affection"
- **Not loving good** hostile to virtue, opposed to both goodness and good people.
- **Lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God

Our Loves
Define Us

Appearance
of Godliness

Our Loves Define Us

- The things that we love or don't love ultimately shape our character.
- The greatest commandment, according to Jesus, is to **love God** first and **love our neighbor as ourselves**.
- **Love of self** is assumed by Jesus - not commanded. When it becomes excessive, or overly intentional, it ends up on this list.

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Appearance of Godliness

- These *are not* obvious God-haters or Satan worshipers.
- They might call themselves Christians and attend church regularly.
- These are “religious” people who reject or refuse God's work in their lives and display the ungodly character described here.
- This is what makes the last days so difficult, so perilous, so terrible. Evil people pass themselves off as good.

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How the Peril
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How the Peril Expands

- **3:6-7** This is an example that Paul and Timothy must have known of personally.
- We may not fully understand it, but we can imagine how it worked.
- These deceivers took advantage of weak and gullible women with their false ideas.
- They then only led them into further bondage, rather than leading them to the truth of the gospel.
- **Make captives** – the word is elsewhere used to describe prisoners of war.

Jannes and
Jambres

Freedom and
Bondage

Jannes and Jambres

- These names come from traditional Jewish sources - not the Old Testament.
- They are the magicians who opposed Moses in Egypt.
- By occult means they were able to duplicate, to a point, the works God did through Moses and Aaron.
- Just like Jannes and Jambres, false teachers will all be exposed eventually.

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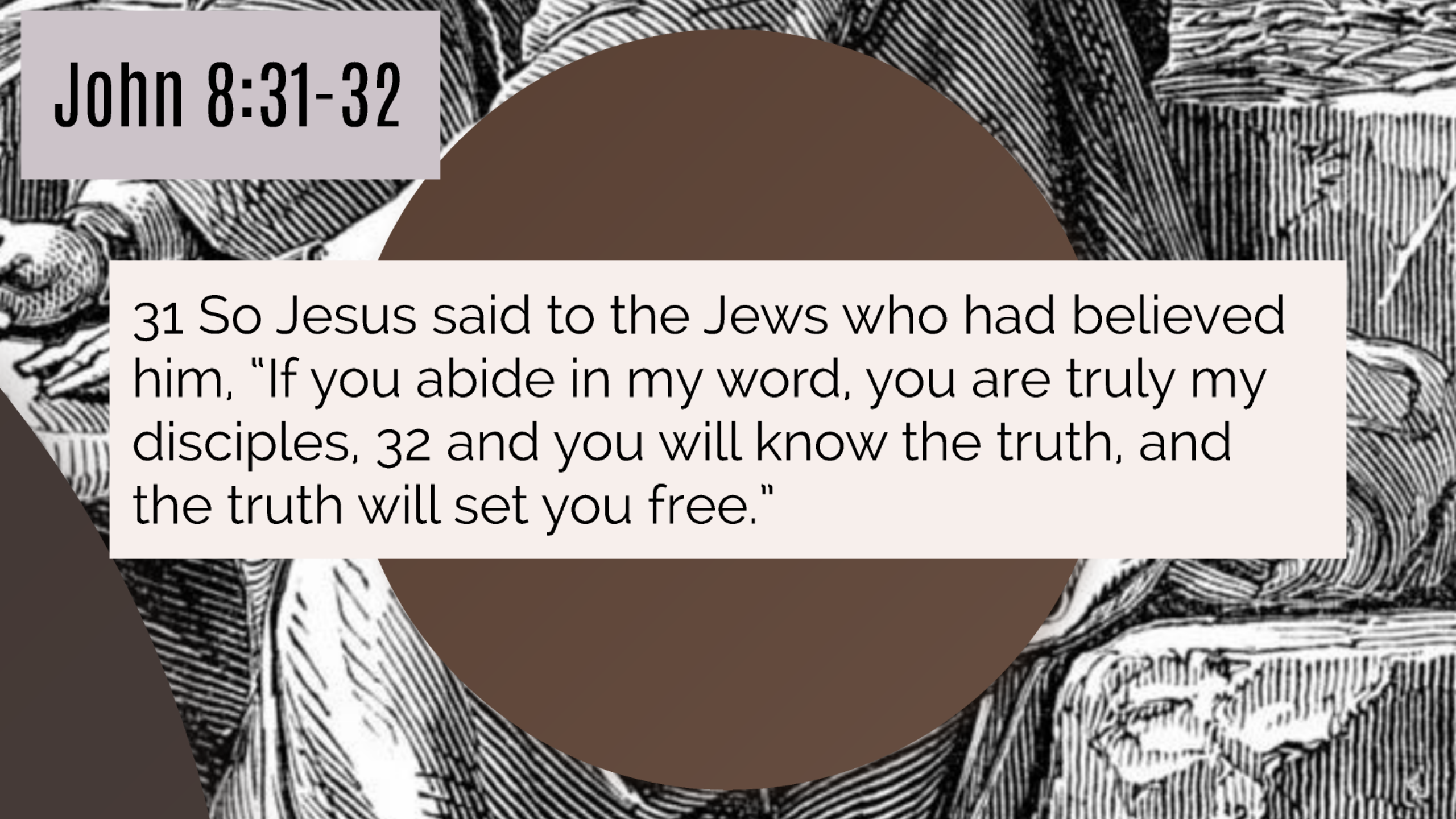
Jannes and
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Freedom and Bondage

John
8:31-32

- The false teachers in Ephesus drew people into further bondage rather than setting them free from their sins.
- Ignorant, weak and gullible Christians hasten the spread of false doctrine and in due course undermine the church.
- Well-taught, stable, discerning Christians hinder the spread of false doctrine and in the end make the church strong.



John 8:31-32

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Freedom and Bondage

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How to Resist 3:10-17

- Having defined the problem of godlessness in the last days, Paul reminds Timothy of what he has already seen and learned.
- Timothy will be able to resist the rising tide of difficulty, but not by acquiring any new knowledge or methods.
- (The *new* things are what the false teachers are bringing.)
- Instead, using what he already has, Timothy must:
 1. Be Willing to Face the Peril. 3:10-13
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**Face the
Peril**

**Be Well
Equipped**

Face the Peril

- Timothy had worked alongside Paul for many years now. He had seen Paul's trials first hand.
- **Antioch, Iconium, Lystra** This was the area that Timothy was from.
- It was at **Lystra** that Paul's enemies stoned him and left him for dead. (See **Acts 14.**)
- Paul reminds Timothy that trouble is guaranteed in the Christian life.
- We may not want it, we may not seek it out, but we should not be surprised at unwanted opposition.

As Long
As You're
Sincere?

From Chuck
Smith

John
15:18-19

As Long as You're Sincere?

- **3:13** **deceiving and being deceived**
- This verse reminds us why **sincerity is a poor evidence for truth.**
- Those who deceive the best are often deceived themselves.
- In other words, they believe their own lies.
- And these deceptions will grow "**from bad to worse**" in the "**times of difficulty**" of the last days.

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Chuck Smith (1927-2013),
founding pastor of the
Calvary Chapel Movement

3:12 This is one of my least favorite promises in the Bible. I don't think anyone prints this promise on a promise card or in a book of Bible promises, but it is a promise just the same ... You can't escape it, so don't even try ... It is a dangerous thing to try to curry favor from the world. If you seek godliness, you will be persecuted.

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18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

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Be Well Equipped

- Timothy had been steeped in the Scriptures from childhood and he needed to stick to them.
- **3:14 from whom** The pronoun is plural, so Paul is not speaking only of himself.
- **3:15 from childhood** No doubt Timothy's mother and grandmother made sure the young boy knew the Bible.
- **3:16-17** *The Holy Spirit divinely guided the writing of Scripture, while at the same time allowing elements of the authors' culture and historical context to come through, at least in matters of style, grammar and choice of words.*
-- Grenz, Guretzki and Nordling

From John
Stott

Key Verses

From Tony
Evans



John Stott (1921 - 2011)

This kind of summons is ... specially relevant whenever innovators arise in the church, 'radicals' who claim to be progressive and who repudiate everything which savours of the traditional. ... To be sure, the church of every generation must seek to translate the faith into the contemporary idiom ... But a translation is a rendering of the same message into another language; it is not a fresh composition.

- John Stott , in *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus: The Life of the Local Church*

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2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

God-
breathed

1 Peter
1:19-21

God-breathed

3:16 **breathed out by God** *theopneustos*

Literally, "God-breathed" as in the NIV.

Teaching

to know what is right

Reproof

to point out what is not right

Correction

to learn how to get right

Training in Righteousness and how to stay right

Key Verses

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19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,
20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.
21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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The doctrine of inspiration refers to the process by which God oversaw the composition of Scripture, guiding the authors to write exactly what he wanted them to write without error ... Our God communicates. And he has worked supernaturally through the Holy Spirit to communicate perfectly to us through all of Scripture, which is the Word of God. When we read the Bible, we are reading the very words of the living God.



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher
and Commentator

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- In Paul's view, the difficult times are not the result of inflation, or wars, or a broken system of education.
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- Paul has detailed for us
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Four Things
to Do Now

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

Four Things to Do Now

The background is a black and white woodcut-style illustration of a person, likely a prisoner, wearing a striped shirt and being restrained by chains. A large, solid brown circle is centered on the page. Overlaid on this brown circle are four teal-colored circles, each containing text. A white rectangular box is positioned in the top-left corner of the image.

Thing #1

Thing #2

Thing #3

Thing #4

Thing #1

Know the Cause of the Peril.

- The peril is caused by evil people, who hold to an outward form of religion, but never allow God to transform them in the way He desires.

Four Things to Do Now

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Thing #1

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Thing #2

Know How the Peril Expands.

- The peril expands when Christians are weak and gullible, falling for deceptive schemes and lying doctrines, concocted by false teachers who will one day be exposed.
- Be a well-taught, stable, discerning Christian.

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Be Willing to Face the Peril.

- Don't be surprised when you encounter false teaching or false believers who intentionally oppose the truth.
- Deception comes naturally to them because many of them are seriously deceived themselves.

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Be Well-Equipped for Survival.

- Buy whatever groceries you like, but be sure to spend time daily in God's Word, the Bible.
- Paul knew his Bible; Timothy knew his Bible.
- Jesus knew His Bible and used it when tested by the devil in the wilderness.
- It will equip you for “every good work.”

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Key Verses

Key Verses in the Letter: 2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Key Verses in the Letter:

2 Timothy 4:6-8

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Conclusions

- As we said at the beginning, an alternate name for this chapter could be
- **"How to Survive in Difficult Times"**
- In Paul's view, the difficult times are not the result of inflation, or wars, or a broken system of education.
- He sees them as a result of evil people passing themselves off as good.
- Paul has detailed for us
 - *Who to Avoid* 3:1-9
 - *How to Resist* 3:10-17
 - ... in difficult time like these.

Four Things
to Do Now

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

A Final Prayer

Dear heavenly Father,

- We understand that we live in times of difficulty, just as Paul and Timothy did.
- We also know that you have equipped us with everything we need to stand firm and succeed in these times.
- Help us to be discerning Christians who can tell truth from falsehood.
- And help us to resist in the face of spiritual opposition, building our lives on the foundation of your holy Word.
- In Christ,
- Amen

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2 Timothy 3

Verse by Verse

In the Last Days

Introduction

Conclusions

Who to Avoid
3:1-9

How to Resist
3:10-17

St. Paul, imprisoned, ends the letter to the Ephesians, and hands it over to Tychicus. Wood engraving, 1886, Gustave Dore (Wikimedia Commons)

