Evidently the traitors will be from those who appear to be in the body of Christ. They will be people close to you.

This sign is not abundantly evident in the Western world yet, but it is on the horizon. If one holds tenaciously to the truths of the Bible they are already being labeled intolerant and hateful. It will likely not be long before the betrayals become clear.

"Heady" - Strong's G4312 - propetes - "precipitate, rash, reckless"

Again this is another sign that is not as easy to find endorsed by the body of Christ at this time. For example, there are no books about how to make rash or reckless decisions. As such, this sign is currently most evident in the world.

Clearly the unsaved embrace and advocate recklessness. One example of this is schools providing birth control to students (without the parents knowledge or consent). Another is the availability of abortions to minors without parental consent. These are just a couple of evidences of the rash and reckless behavior our society endorses and allows.

For the most part, the church does not yet make allowances for such recklessness.

Conclusion:

Surely the perilous "last days" are upon us!

The signs abound all around us. Many of these warnings are clearly evident within the walls of what calls itself "the church".

Throughout the Scriptures, God refers to a faithful "REMNANT".

"The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God." (Isaiah 10:21)

Here is what true Christians, the remnant, must do...

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Timothy 3:5)

* Strong's - this is a reference to the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance which provides definitions for every word in the Bible.

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Transformed Living Messages ChristLife PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304 Ph: (716) 622-7320 E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net Visit us at www.Christ-like.net



By: Robert Dallmann

"This know also, that <u>in the last days peril-ous times shall come.</u> (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:

<u>from such turn away.</u>" (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

This is the fourth part in this series. This is another installation of our review of the signs of the perilous times listed in the Scriptures above. Paul teaches Timothy some of the earmarks of the "last days", and we are studying them.

Sadly, in the church today, there are teachers that endorse the very things the Bible warns **AGAINST**.

Christians must not embrace the philosophies and ways of the world! Believers need to recognize these signs and **AVOID** people who embrace and promote them. The last two words of the passage quoted above are "turn away". This phrase means...

"Turn away" - Strong's G665 - apotrepo -"to turn one's self away from - to shun, avoid"

True followers of Jesus should shun and avoid attachments to those who proclaim such philosophies and ideas.

In this message (Part 4 of this series) we are going to examine the following attributes of the "last days". "Fierce", "Despisers of those that are good", "Traitors", and "Heady".

"Fierce" - Strong's G434 - anemeros - "not tame, savage, fierce"

This word is only used once in the Bible and because of this, there are no other Scriptures to compare usage with. Unlike most of the other attributes in this list, modern endorsements of "savage" behavior by Christendom would be difficult to point out.

However, such behavior is easy to see in the world we live in. People with certain agendas (pro-abortion for example) can easily be seen engaging in fierce actions. The "perilous times" we live in clearly shows signs of ferocity.

"Despisers of those that are good" - Strong's G865 - aphilagathos - "opposed to goodness and good men"

This Greek word is also used only in this passage and can be found nowhere else in the Scriptures. Unlike "fierce" above, this characteristic of the "last days" can be found in both the world and the church.

A glance throughout the world reveals "good men" imprisoned, tortured, and killed for being godly. Christians suffer much persecution worldwide. Good is labeled and treated as evil, and evil as though it were good.

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20)

Surely we cannot find "despisers of good" within Christian circles, can we?

Sadly the evidence abounds! Often those who hold to what the Bible clearly states are ridiculed as narrow minded. Some denominations are ordaining people who live lifestyles that the Bible calls "abominations".

Yes, indeed! We are living in the "perilous times" of the "last days".

"Traitors" - Strong's G4273 - prodotes - "a betrayer, traitor"

Of course we can look back to Judas Iscariot for an early example of a betrayer. But this one is actually difficult to apply to the unsaved. How can the lost betray Christians? We expect those who are under the rule of the god of this world (satan) to be untrustworthy.

This may be found in the world in a generic sense. Possibly friends or family members who turn on a person because of their faith in Jesus.

But the Bible warns even more specifically about this one in the context of betrayal by fellow believers. Passages about apostasy, the Bible example of Demas, and other Scriptures should be taken seriously.

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia." (2 Timothy 4:10)

"And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death." (Matthew 10:21)