

Thursday, July 13, 2023 ▫ 2 Timothy 3:6–9

Questions from the Scripture text: v5 referred to those who use the form of Christ's Name in worship but fail to demonstrate His power in holiness. Now where does v6 say some of such people go? Whom do they take captive? What weakness do these women have? With what are they loaded down? By what are they led away? What are they always doing (v7)? But what are they never able to do? Who are the men that take advantage of them like (v8)? Whom did Jannes and Jambres resist? Now what do these others resist, that has brought them to such a state of wickedness? What does this corruption of mind show about them with respect to the faith? What will be the outcome with them (v9)?

Who are in great danger from false teachers? 2Timothy 3:6–9 looks forward to the second serial reading of in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **pastors must not only turn away from false teachers themselves but also protect the most vulnerable in their congregation.**

Not all women are gullible; the wording of v6 implies a specific sort of woman, not all women generally. False teachers are a worse threat than those whom we now call human traffickers. They take not just bodies captive but souls. Like Satan in Gen 3, they take advantage of softer targets.

In this case, the heresy that these men peddle is uniquely suited to a particular sort of woman: ones who have difficulty dealing with the weight of their guilt ("loaded down with sins") or denying the power of their desires ("led away by various lusts"). Such women are all too happy to listen to a doctrine that says that you can have a form of godliness that doesn't produce a life of love for God, a life of holiness. They bounce from one form of theology to another ("always learning"), but the one truth that saves (Jesus Himself, through Whom we receive not only forgiveness, but cleansing) is the one truth that they have the hardest time settling upon.

But any other Christianity is a cheap counterfeit. "Jannes and Jambres" may or may not have been their actual names, but historically, the Jews believed that these were the Egyptian magicians who were able to produce inferior imitations of Moses's signs. But the problem with Jannes and Jambres was not the inferiority of the signs but the plausibility.

So, Paul is warning Timothy as a pastor. And the mention of "sneaking into households" implies that there is also responsibility on the part of husbands and fathers. Timothy, and the ministers whom he trains, must be watchful for the congregation, and teach husbands and fathers to be watchful in the home.

The truth matters. Clear, sound doctrine matters. The men with the form of religion, but lacking its power, are "disapproved concerning the faith." This means that they are reprobate, disqualified. They do not have Christ. They will not enter into His rest. They will perish in their sin. A pastor, an elder, a husband, a father must be watchful against the same happening to those whose spiritual care has been entrusted to them. Every congregation has those who are the most theologically/spiritually vulnerable. Let God's undershepherds be careful of them. And let the vulnerable be thankful for the discerning ones, and submit to those whom God has set over them for their good. What a deadly combination folly and pride become together!

Jannes and Jambres were impressive in their moment. Water into blood, sticks into serpents. So, this passage teaches us to expect false teachers to be impressive in their moment. But when we look back from eternity, it will have been just a moment. And when their moment passes, what a ruin will have come to all those taken in by them!

What sorts of theology have you heard that say that obedience and holiness aren't important for Christians? What do those who teach such things resist? What will happen if you are taken in by them? For whom do you have spiritual responsibility? Whom do you know that could be in danger?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You that Jesus is a complete Savior—for both forgiveness of sin and cleansing from sin. Forgive us for how gladly we hear those who tell us that we can be Christian without living holy lives. Forgive us for not being more careful to help those who are most vulnerable to such dangerous teaching. Please keep us from meeting the same dreadful end as those who teach such things, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH466 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. **PLEASE BE AWARE** of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Timothy 3, our portion is verses 6 through 9 These are God's words. For of this sort or those who creep into households, And make captives of gullible women. Loaded down with sins, let away by various lusts. Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now, as janaion jambrus, resisted Moses. So do these also resist the truth Men have corrupt minds disapproved concerning the faith. But they will progress. No further for their folly will be manifest to all. As there is also was. So far, the reading of god's. Inspired and inherent towardt. So, the apostle has given instruction warning command.

To turn away. From those who have a form of religion, but deny its power. Those who Uh, use the name of the lord jesus, those who worship. Uh, in the name of the lord jesus. Claim to belong to the faith. And yet the jesus his name, they use that jesus.

Who's religion? They have is not. The jesus of the bible, the jesus of reality, the jesus, he is god who died for sinners and prays again and has ascended to heaven because that jesus He has not only. Given himself that we might be forgiven of our sin, but he has also given himself that we might be cleansed of our sin.

And these just, uh, he's described. Those who love and live for pleasure and even sinfulness and verses two through four but there are people in the churches who teach a quote unquote christian theology. It's not christian at all. But a Christian theology that says that sin is okay. That because Jesus has come sin is now Uh, no big deal.

And we don't have to, worry about it. Now, this is Um, This is, of course, false. But it's also. Dangerous. It's very dangerous and that's why he's saying. Describing in verse 6 of this sort, are those And then he talks about vulnerable christians. Or vulnerable people in the church.

That there are things. Uh, the there are people who are more vulnerable to false teaching than others. And there are people who are more vulnerable to this specific, false teaching, That. There's such a thing as christianity without holiness. And without holy living. There are some people who are more vulnerable to this specific false teaching than others.

And so he uses this picture of this sort of those who creep into household and households and make captives. Now, that's an interesting. Not interesting description. And what he's saying here is that in a household in which Many people. Our believers. It's still possible that one person. Would believe wrongly.

And therefore, would hope in a figment of their imagination rather than in the true Jesus. And they sneak, they sneak into households that creep at the household and take captives of gullible women. Now, this doesn't mean that all women are gullible. But there are Women, who are more. Fanciful in their thoughts easily.

Taken from one idea to another. And so, Women, generally speaking being more, Emotionally. Driven. But That's not true in every comparison between one man and one woman. Uh, yet, there are even among women those who are easily taken. By thoughts one or another and so There's a duty for everyone male and Male and female.

To build a good solid foundation of biblical doctrine. To make good use of God's provision of the apostles. And Christ's provision of the apostles prophets, and evangelists by whom, he has given us the scriptures in Ephesians 4 to make good provision of the pastor teachers. The minister to us.

The words that Jesus has given. And if you're a wife or a daughter, You should make good use. Of the scriptures and the shepherding that Husband provides when you're a wife or that your daddy provides. When you're a daughter. Because all of these things are so that we will not be tossed.

To, and fro. By every wind of doctrine or every wave and of doctor and every wind of teaching her, every wave of teaching, And so, These. Uh, these gullible women. These women who are easily taken. By a new idea. That's one thing that makes them. Um, especially vulnerable to false teaching, and this false teaching.

Another thing that makes them especially vulnerable to this false teaching is they're being loaded down with sins. And this means two different things. One Because of their unrestrained sinning. They? They have much sin and guilt. To bear. And they don't know how properly to bear it. They're not taking.

They're sin immediately to the Lord Jesus. It has borne the full penalty for sin. And, And, Rejoicing in his free and full forgiveness, and beholding, his loveliness and his glory, which is such a weapon against Our remaining sin. That we behold him and we find him to not only has taken the guilt from us.

The one who is worthy of a life of obedience and service and makes us Hate our sin more. Uh, but rather they keep sitting, and they keep sinning and they never come and repentance and they never come and faith. And they're never freed from the, the guiltiness of the sin.

Maybe they heal it lightly. Like a lot of these false teachers. Do and they just use words like, grace and forgiveness. Uh, but they are not resting in the God, man. Who has taken their guilt away. And so, Um, It's kind of a psychological self-talk. When they use the word forgiveness, they don't actually feel the freedom of liberation and belonging to Jesus.

They don't actually find him who has done this for them to be so worthy of a response of thankfulness and love and living a life and fellowship within It's just word games. Like so much a man-made religion is And so they are loaded down. With their sins. Not only are they loaded down?

With their sins with the guilt that is from before. But therefore they're easily led away by their desires. Without this freedom from Jesus and love and thankfulness for Jesus. Every new desire that pops up is pretty strong. Comparatively strong if you don't have this love for him and and this desire to please him That is powerful through the interaction within who has saved you.

Um, Then the desires that come from our flesh that come that much stronger. By comparison, there isn't this greater affection? That is squeezing them out and suffocating them killing them leaving. No room for the desires of the flesh. So, of course, Someone who is easily taken by new doctrine.

And is weighed down with a bunch of guilt. And is easily led away. By their desires, in one direction or another Of course, they are very ready to hear someone who comes along and say, That's okay. You can have Jesus. And do whatever you want. It's no big deal.

Another thing that makes someone susceptible. Uh, to false teaching. Is actually. A wrong kind of theological curiosity. They're not knowing and growing in the knowledge. Of the Lord whom to whom they belonged. Him to whom their united whose spirit dwells in them. Who loves them. They're not making progress towards.

Glory. In their knowledge of Christ. And in being pressed more into the shape of the character of the Lord, Jesus. For them theological things are a matter of either intellectual curiosity or Emotional enjoyment. They're always learning. They love to read. Uh, read theological books, listen to theological talks. Go to.

Uh, you know, have theological chats with their friends. Uh, but it's not unknowing of the truth and an experiencing of the truth for them. Well. They've set up, it's kind of like, Those who, who participate in the sort of dating pattern of romantic relationship, and then surprise. You know, when uh, when they get married as soon as they get bored or irritated, they're ready to move on to the next one.

They practiced serial divorce before they got married. They just didn't call it that And then after they gave me well, Those who instead of learning and growing steadily in the knowledge of the Lord, as he is from the Bible. And the steady growing and the knowledge of the truth, but they just they date theological ideas.

And they they move from one to the other to the other to the other. That makes you very vulnerable. For the kind of team because eventually, you're going to get to a theology that actually indulges the very things that are wrong with you. That makes you feel better the way you are.

Rather than bringing you to the knowledge of Christ. And so there are all these things that he's describing here that make us vulnerable to false teaching. And notice Paul didn't write this letter. The gullible women. And it's not just women who can be you can be a gullible man too.

But the point that he's making to Timothy is that in your flock? There are going to be those who are most vulnerable. To theological error. And you need to reject. You need to reject those. Who are wrong because they will appear for a moment. Like they are spiritual like they are wise.

But if people are taken in, they're going to be destroyed and that's where this genus and jambrus comes in. Now I don't know if these were the actual names because Moses doesn't give them to us, an Exodus But in the Jewish tradition, these were two names of Pharaoh's magicians.

Do you remember who were able to turn? Uh water into blood and we were able to make sticks turn into snakes. But always inferior. Um, And yet, for a time they opposed Moses and it seemed like they They had some real spiritual power. And so, The, the ability to seemingly produce some results.

Also makes false teaching even more dangerous. But what would happen? If you followed with egypt, instead of following with israel, in the opening chapters of exodus, Well, pretty quickly you would get destroyed. And that's what he's saying. He's saying, Uh, right at the beginning. It may look like that teaching is okay.

But very quickly, it will spiral. And those who are sucked into it will be destroyed. Along with the those who are teaching it. And he says something very Um, Very forward. Very blunt. Very clear. The end of verse 8, that those who teach a Christ that doesn't sanctify, our disapproval concerning the faith, That means reprobate.

They're unconverted. And those who follow with them will be destroyed with them. Their folly may not be apparent at first. But, Uh, timothy as a pastor. And the other pastors. That Timothy is supposed to be training. The other elders that Timothy are supposed to be training and then of course, if you're going to have the care of souls, if you're going to be a husband or a father, You need to learn to recognize.

When someone is teaching a false christ with false results, Because you will have those who are under your spiritual care that are more susceptible. And you have a special responsibility. To those who are more susceptible. Pastors need to be able to name names. Like paul name's names here, of course, they're, they're metaphor names for us, but they need to be able to say That's a false doctrine.

That's a doctrine that belongs to people who are not actually going to hear. Enter into my rest. They are going to say, lord, lord about jesus. But they're going to hear depart from me. I never knew you. And the reason they're going to hear that. Is because they were workers of lawlessness.

And they should have known. That when jesus the true jesus. Comes to know someone. Brings them into union with himself, and that blessed fellowship. He doesn't leave them as workers of lawlessness. He conforms them to himself. And so yes, there are wolves. Who creep into households, they make a separation.

And they take capture one person at a time. With their false teaching. That is so attractive. Because it says i can continue to be a sinner. Or i can continue sinning freely. And that's okay. It's not, okay. And that's not how jesus leaves something he does not leave someone.

Able to sin. Freely. Well, may the lord give us each to know. Our own weakness, our own vulnerability. To grow steadily. In our biblical and theological knowledge, but also our experiential knowledge of christ. So that we want to just have the theological foundation, but that we will have that interaction with him.

Where we don't end up, loaded down with our sins. But enjoying continually the refreshment of the free and full forgiveness enjoying continually the renewal of that gratitude and love that comes with having been liberated. We will not be the vulnerable ones. And may the lord help us, especially those of us.

He has called for the care of other souls. To recognize when those under our care. Are vulnerable and susceptible. And to do, Uh, what we may toward them? And to turn away and not permit. A theological genus or genres. Into the congregation. Or into the house. Especially since they have so many entry points now.

With podcasts websites. All manner of. Avenues of proliferating their Deadly teaching. Spray.

Father, i ask that you would please help us by your spirit. That you would give my family. Day by day week by week. To know your word more to. Have stronger and clearer and More truthful. Theological understanding of it. I pray, especially that they would not each one of them would not be.

Loaded down with sin and let away. By desire. But that they would be freed in christ. And Driven by love for him. Give me. Oh, lord. To continually. No, in a new way in a fresh way. The great freedom. Of having been forgiven in christ. Help me, lord. So that i would be an example.

And the family. Have mercy of God, forgive me. Don't let. That in which i have fallen for. To now bring harm upon my wife. Upon my children. Lord, we do pray for Your church and our congregation of your church. That those who are exposed to false teaching. And those who, Are not only exposed, but have Several of the Extra vulnerability, susceptibility that we've just heard about.

That you would get them away. And give our elders wisdom to know how To get them away. From the ones who are creeping in to take them captive. We thank you, holy spirit. That these are not just your words. To us for what we should do. But that these are words that we receive from you.

Who are also caring for us. So we entrust ourselves to your fellowship and your care. Please. We pray. Glorify christ. By employing this portion of your word, Than our hearts and minds and lives. Where we ask jesus name. Amen.