

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Dangerous Times for the Faith (2 Timothy 3:1-9)*

**Summary:** We live in spiritually dangerous times. See the risks and guard against a fake faith.

### **1. Know the Reputation of the Times: Fake Godliness (vv. 1-5a)**

- In general, fake godliness is characterized by over selfishness and pleasure seeking. We love ourselves and we want God to love us at the same time.
- Does the delay between Paul's day and our day make you callous or unconcerned to the "immediacy" of Paul's warning? Remember, Paul was living in the last days since they began as soon as Jesus came.
- How do we battle becoming lazy or slack in our expectation of Jesus return? When He comes, will He find us "fake"?
- How do you measure up against the list of those who have fake godliness in vv. 2-5? Remember - they look religious and they are among us (v. 5). Are there areas of your life that you need to get serious about in your sanctification? What are you going to do to grow in those areas?

### **2. Know the Risk of the Times: Fake Learning (vv. 5b-7)**

- How do we distinguish between the sinners to avoid and the sinners to accept? (See 1 Cor 5 for help.)
- What is your pattern of repentance over sin? Do you make excuses or do you humbly consider your offenses?
- What does your Bible study accomplish in your life? Is it changing your behavior into humble godliness or is it fostering religious arrogance?
- How can we combat patterns of godless learning?
- What is the object of your study? (To know stuff or to know Christ?) How can you battle to make a love of Jesus the goal of your study?
- What questions can you ask? What habits can you form?

### **3. Know the Result of the Times: Fakery Exposed (vv. 8-9)**

- How do you work to discern sound doctrine so that the counterfeits may become "plain" to you? (Scripture is the arbiter – be a *Berean*.)
- How can you learn to be discerning without becoming judgmental and condemning?
- Are you given to "trends" or popular Christian teachers or authors? How can you make sure that you benefit from them but always keep them in priority? Where should the bulk of your teaching, discipleship and learning come from? What steps can you take to make sure that your outside information is properly balanced with the accountability God has called you to in the local church?