

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY ([2nd Timothy 3:1](#))

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a **form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**"

Stay Far Away From Fake Christians



Perilous times shall come. The Bible reminds us that the last days will be foreshadowed by the turning away of people from the truth of God and love for God. Paul writes to Timothy and warns him and other believers that in the last days, people will be "*lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power.*" Paul then reminds Timothy to turn away from such people.

We need to guard our inner circle. Paul's initial warning to stay away from people of ungodly character may seem odd because, as Christians, we are called to go into the world to save the world and share the Gospel. Therefore we may wonder, how can we stay away from ungodly people if these are the people who need Christ the most? In answering this question, we should be reminded that there is a difference between friends in our inner circle and general friends with whom we associate. Jesus, for example, associated with everyone and was called the friend of sinners. Jesus associated with drunkards, prostitutes, tax collectors, and all manners of sinners. However, these individuals were not all in His inner circle. For example, when Jesus wanted to expose His glory on the Mount of Transfiguration ([Matthew 17](#)), He only selected Peter, James, and John, those in His inner circle. Similarly, when Jesus wanted to be alone with the ruler of the synagogue's daughter to perform a miracle, He only took His inner circle, James, Peter, and John and the girl's parents ([Mark 5:35](#)).

All of God's children will be saved. Ultimately the work of Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit. We are unable to bring anyone to repentance on our own power and strength. This work must be done by God the Father who calls us and the Holy Spirit who regenerates, changes hearts, and indwells us. Paul draws our attention towards people who are imitating (a form of godliness) Christ, but are actually fake Christians, as he list the final character trait of people we should stay away from. The verse reads, "*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power.*" We are reminded that as the time draws closer and closer to the return of Jesus, many will act as if they are in the body of Christ; however, their character will betray them and give them away; we are warned to *stay far away* from these people.

Your brother in Christ, WNL

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Paul's warning is *not* intended to direct the sheep of God to isolate themselves from the goats in the flock (*this is God's job*); rather, Paul's warning is to call the sheep to stay far away (*this is our job*) from the wolves in sheep's clothing.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for your WORD which reminds us of what the last days will be like. Help us to stay far away from those who profess to be in the body of Christ but are anti(against)-Christ. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

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