

2nd Timothy

Future Faithlessness

- Future Faithlessness [3:1-9]
 - But be aware of this, that in the last days stressful times will come.
Τοῦτο δὲ γίνωσκε, ὅτι ἐν ἐσχάταις ἡμέραις ἐνστήσονται καιροὶ χαλεποί.
 - The word “realize” is an imperative of γινώσκω (ginōskō) which means “know” or “know about”.
 - This word is used of awareness here, so we will translate this as “be aware of”.
 - The phrase “last days” refers to the latter part of a particular time period [1 Tim 4:1].
 - In this case, this is describing the final few years of the stewardship of the Church.
 - The word “difficult” is from χαλεπός (chalepos) which means “difficult” or “troublesome”.
 - This word describes times of intense stress, so we will translate this as “stressful”.
 - The word “times” is from καιρός (kairos) which means “time” or “period”.
 - This word describes a time period characterized by crisis without reference to any exact chronology.
 - For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers,
ἔσονται γὰρ οἱ ἄνθρωποι φίλαυτοι φιλάργυροι ἀλαζόνες ὑπερήφανοι βλάσφημοι,
 - The word “men” is from ἄνθρωπος (anthropos) which means “man” or “human being”.
 - This word describes men and women when used in the masculine plural as it is here.
 - The first two items in this list are words formed from the root φίλ (phil) which means “lovers of”.
 - The final two items in this list in verse 4 are formed the same way, bracketing the list.
 - The phrase “lovers of self” is from φίλαυτος (philautos) which means “loving oneself” or “selfish”.
 - The basic meaning of this word is self-centeredness and all that comes with that.
 - The phrase “lovers of money” is from φιλάργυρος (philarguros) which means “fond of money”.
 - This word is used to describe the Pharisees who scoffed at Jesus’ teaching about wealth [Luke 16:13-14].
 - The word “boastful” is from ἀλαζών (alazōn) which means “boaster” or “braggart”.
 - This word is found here and in Paul’s list in Romans chapter one [Rom 1:30].
 - The word “arrogant” is from ὑπερήφανος (hyperēphanos) which means “arrogant” or “haughty”.
 - This word is also found in Rom 1:30 as well as in a loose quotation of Prov 3:34 in Jas 4:6.
 - The word “revilers” is from βλάσφημος (blasphēmos) which means “denigrating” or “demeaning”.
 - This word is used of blasphemy [Acts 6:11; 1 Tim 1:13], so we will translate this as “blasphemers” here.

- disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, hardhearted, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, γονεῦσιν ἀπειθεῖς, ἀχάριστοι ἀνόσιοι ἄστοργοι ἄσπονδοὶ διάβολοι
 - The word “disobedient” is from ἀπειθής (apeithēs) which means “disobedient” [Luke 1:17; Titus 3:3].
 - The identical phrase “disobedient to parents” is also found in Rom 1:30.
 - The word “ungrateful” is from ἀχάριστος (acharistos) which means “ungrateful” [Luke 6:35].
 - Notice that this word is based on χάρις (charis) which is the word for “grace” and “graciousness”.
 - The word “unholy” is from ἀνόσιος (anosios) which means “unholy” [1 Tim 1:9].
 - This word describes being in opposition to God or whatever is considered sacred.
 - The word “unloving” is from ἄστοργος (astorgos) which means “unfeeling” or “hardhearted”.
 - We translated this as “hardhearted” in Rom 1:31 and will do the same here.
 - The word “irreconcilable” is from ἄσπονδος (aspondos) which means “irreconcilable”.
 - This word describes someone who is totally unwilling to come to terms in negotiations with a second party.
 - The phrase “malicious gossips” is from διάβολος (diabolos) which means “slanderer” or “slandering”.
 - This word is one of the titles of the devil who is the ultimate slanderer.
- lacking in moral restraint, savages, opposed to what is good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, ἀκρατεῖς ἀνήμεροι ἀφιλάγαθοι προδότηι προπετεῖς τετυφωμένοι,
 - The phrase “without self-control” is from ἀκρατής (akratēs) which means “lacking in self-control”.
 - This word is describing a lack of restraint in regard to issues of morality here.
 - The word “brutal” is from ἀνήμερος (anēmeros) which means “savage” or “brutal”.
 - This word describes something that is untamed, so we will translate this as “savages”.
 - The phrase “haters of good” is from ἀφιλάγαθος (aphilagalos) which means “not interested in good”.
 - We will translate this as “opposed to what is good” here.
 - The word “treacherous” is from προδότης (prodotēs) which means “traitor” or “betrayor”.
 - This word describes the treachery which is behind the acts of betrayal here.
 - The word “reckless” is from προπετής (propetēs) which means “rash”, “reckless” or “thoughtless”.
 - This word describes being impulsive and taking action before thinking things through.
 - The word “conceited” is from τυφώω (tuphoō) which means “puffed up” or “conceited”.
 - We saw this word back in 1 Tim 3:6 and 1 Tim 6:4 and it includes the idea of being blinded or foolish.

- lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, maintaining an outward appearance of godliness,
 φιλήδονοι μᾶλλον ἢ φιλόθεοι, ἔχοντες μόρφωσιν εὐσεβείας
 - The phrase “lovers of pleasure” is from φιλήδονος (philēdonos) which means “pleasure loving”.
 - This word is formed from the root φίλ (phil) plus ἡδονος (hēdonos) which is hedonism (pleasure-seeking).
 - The phrase “lovers of God” is from φιλόθεος (philotheos) which means “devout” or “having affection for God”.
 - The word play here is that these people have made pleasure their god in place of God Himself.
 - The phrase “holding to a form of godliness” is literally “having an outward form of godliness”.
 - We will translate this as “maintaining an outward appearance of godliness”.
- although they have denied its power; Avoid such people as these.
 τὴν δὲ δύναμιν αὐτῆς ἠρνημένοι· καὶ τούτους ἀποτρέπου.
 - The word “denied” is from ἀρνεόμαι (arneomai) which means “refuse”, “reject” or “deny”.
 - This is the word used in 1 John 2:22 to describe those who reject the fact that Jesus is the Christ.
 - The word “power” is from δύναμις (dunamis) which means “power”, “strength” or “might”.
 - This word describes power in action – the power of God regarding life and godliness [2 Pet 1:3].
 - The word “Avoid” is from ἀποτρέπω (apotrepō) which means “turn away from” or “avoid”.
 - This word describes a purposeful turn or course of action in a direction away from someone (or something).
 - The instruction to “Avoid such men as these” certainly applies to the last days, but indicates that Paul thought that people like this existed in his time.
 - We will change “men” to “people”.
- For among them are those who sneak into households and deceive gullible women heavily burdened by sins,
 Ἐκ τούτων γὰρ εἰσιν οἱ ἐνδύνοντες εἰς τὰς οἰκίας καὶ αἰχμαλωτίζοντες γυναῖκάρια σεσωρευμένα ἁμαρτίας,
 - The word “enter” is from ἐνδύνω (endunō) which means “slip in”.
 - This word describes entering an area through devious means or pretense.
 - The word “captivate” is from αἰχμαλωτίζω (aichmalōtizō) which means “captivate” or “deceive”.
 - This word describes deceiving someone by taking them captive through coercion.
 - The phrase “weak women” is from γυναῖκάριον (gunaikairon) which means “foolish/weak woman”.
 - This word describes a woman who is silly/foolish and as a result is gullible.

- The phrase “weighed down” is from σωρεύω (sōreuō) which means “loaded down with”.
- This word describes being heavily burdened by something.
- led astray by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
ἀγόμενα ἐπιθυμίαις ποικίλαις, πάντοτε μανθάνοντα καὶ μηδέποτε εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἀληθείας ἐλθεῖν δυνάμενα.
- The phrase “led on” is from ἄγω (agō) which means “lead off” or “lead away”.
- This word is used of being led astray by something here.
- The word “impulses” is from ἐπιθυμία (epithumia) which means “desire”, “craving” or “lust”.
- This word describes lusts of the flesh here.
- The word “learning” is from μανθάνω (manthanō) which means “learn”.
- This word describes gaining knowledge, but this could be any type of knowledge including heresy.
- The word “knowledge” is from ἐπίγνωσις (epignōsis) which means “full knowledge”.
- This word describes a deep knowledge, always used in the N.T. of biblical knowledge.
- Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth,
ὄν τρόπον δὲ Ἰάννης καὶ Ἰαμβρῆς ἀντέστησαν Μωϋσεῖ, οὕτως καὶ οὗτοι ἀνθίστανται τῇ ἀληθείᾳ,
- The reference to Jannes and Jambres is not drawn from the O.T. – instead these two names come from a well-known Jewish legend about two of Pharaoh’s magicians who went against Moses and lost [Ex 7:11; 9:11].
- The words “opposed” and “oppose” are from ἀνθίστημι (anthistēmi) which means “set against” or “oppose”.
- This word describes working against or being in opposition to someone or something.
- We saw in verse 7 that these men were unable to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
- This verse tells us that these men also outright oppose the truth.
- men of corrupted mind, disqualified in regard to the faith.
ἄνθρωποι καταφθαρμένοι τὸν νοῦν, ἀδόκιμοι περὶ τὴν πίστιν.
- The word “depraved” is from καταφθεῖρω (kataphtheirō) which means “destroy” or “corrupt”.
- This word describes a corrupted mind similar to the way Satan’s mind was corrupted by his pride [Ezek 28:17].
- The word “rejected” is from ἀδόκιμος (adokimos) which means “unqualified” or “worthless”.
- Paul uses this word in the sense of “disqualified” in regard to his ministry in 1 Cor 9:27.
- The phrase “the faith” here refers to the content of the Christian faith and ministries related to sharing that content.

- But they will not make further progress; for their foolishness will be very obvious to all, ἀλλ' οὐ προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ πλεῖον· ἡ γὰρ ἄνοια αὐτῶν ἔκδηλος ἔσται πᾶσιν,
 - The phrase “make ... progress” is from προκόπτω (prokoptō) which means “proceed” or “advance”.
 - Here this word refers to progress in the bad sense of these men attempting to negatively influence believers.
 - The word “folly” is ἄνοια (anoia) which means “folly”.
 - This word describes the characteristic of someone who is without understanding and can refer to foolish anger [Luke 6:12].
 - We will translate this word as “foolishness” here.
 - The word “obvious” is ἔκδηλος (ekdēlos) which means “plain” or “quite evident”.
 - We will translate this word as “very obvious” here.
- just as Jannes’s and Jambres’s foolishness became very obvious also. ὡς καὶ ἡ ἐκείνων ἐγένετο.
 - The phrase “Jannes’s and Jambres’s folly” is literally “that of those”.
 - The NASB translators used a verbose translation to make it clear what was being stated here and we will merely change “folly” to “foolishness” to match our translation.
 - The word “was” is the past tense of γίνομαι (ginomai) which means “become”.
 - We will translate this as “became” here, adding the phrase “very obvious” for clarity.
- Principles of 2 Timothy 3:1-9
 - The final period of the Church will be a time of great difficulty and stress upon believers [1 Tim 4:1-3; 2 Pet 3:3; Jude 17-18].
 - The spirit of the antichrist will be very active during that time even as it is active today [1 John 2:18].
 - There will be many who are enemies of the cross, led on by their own selfish desires [Phil 3:18-19].
 - These people will be characterized by...
 - selfishness [Jas 3:14-16 cp. 1 Cor 10:24; 13:5; Phil 2:3-4]
 - greed [1 Tim 6:10 cp. Pr 11:6; Luke 12:15; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5]
 - boastfulness [Ps 10:3; Jas 4:16 cp. 1 Sa 2:3; Ps 20:7; 44:8]
 - arrogance [Pr 21:4 cp. 1 Cor 8:1; 13:4; Jas 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5]
 - blasphemy [Luke 22:65 cp. Acts 18:6; 1 Tim 1:20; Jas 2:7]
 - disobedience to parents [Mic 7:6 cp. Eph 6:1; Col 3:20]
 - ungraciousness [Luke 17:17-18 cp. Ecc 10:12; 1 Thess 5:18]
 - unholiness [Eph 4:17-19 cp. 2 Co 7:1; Co 3:5-8; 1 Pt 1:14-16]
 - hardheartedness [Zech 7:11-12 cp. Pr 28:14; Heb 3:13-15]
 - contentiousness [Pr 26:21 cp. Ph 2:14; 1 Pt 4:9; Ti 3:9-11]
 - gossiping [1 Tim 5:13 cp. Pr 20:19; 1 Tim 3:11; Titus 2:3]
 - immorality [Jude 7 cp. 1 Cor 6:13, 18; 10:8; 1 Thess 4:3-5]
 - brutality [Pr 21:7 cp. Ps 11:5; Prov 3:31-32; 11:17]
 - opposition to what is good [Ps 38:20 cp. Dt 6:18; Ro 12:2]

- treachery [2 Pet 2:10-11; Jude 8-9 cp. Ex 22:28; Acts 23:5]
 - recklessness [Jdgs 9:4; Zeph 3:4 cp. Acts 19:36]
 - conceit [1 Tim 6:3-4a cp. Rom 11:20; 12:3, 16; 1 Tim 6:17]
 - hedonism [Rom 16:18; Phil 3:18-19 cp. Titus 2:11-14]
 - denial of God [2 Pet 2:1; Jude 4 cp. Luke 4:8; 1 John 5:2-3]
 - feigned godliness [Isa 29:13 cp. 2 Pet 1:2-7; Titus 1:1]
- People who portray these characteristics are to be avoided [Matt 7:15; 2 Th 3:6, 14].
 - These people will creep into churches [Jude 4] and prey upon carnal women who are vulnerable to their cons.
 - Such people are always acquiring information, but they never come to know the truth [1 Tim 2:3-4].
 - In addition to lacking knowledge of the truth, these people outright oppose the truth [Acts 13:8-10].
 - We can defend ourselves against such people by growing in the faith [Eph 4:14; Heb 5:12-14].
 - These people have corrupted minds [1 Tim 6:5] and have been disqualified for faith-based ministry [1 Tim 1:19].
 - The foolishness of these people is allowed to continue only in the permissive will of God [Job 1:9-12; 2:4-6].
 - However, the foolish nature of their deeds will eventually become evident to everyone [Jer 37:19; Acts 19:13-17].
 - Opposition to God can go on for only so long before God's power will become evident [Ex 8:18-19].