

The Plague of Sin in the Last Days

Text: II Timothy 3:1-9 This know also, that in the last days **perilous times shall come**. 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: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

Romans 1:22-32 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity - (*ill will toward others*); whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Matthew 25:6-9 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Introduction: *This sermon is the 4th and final sermon on the topic of “SIN and the Great Conflict Within”. The first two sermons dealt with the struggle of sin within! The struggle between our Born Again Nature and the Old Nature that surfaces from time to time to give us problems!*

The last two sermons are dealing with the ACTUAL PROBLEM ITSELF, SIN! SIN is not only a major problem for the Christian but its effects are seen all around us today! It originated in the Garden of Eden and quickly spread to such a level that Noah’s generation was judged by God. Every generation since Noah has been contaminated with its evil influence. Like a cancer it is spreading throughout our modern world and continues to grow worse and worse with each passing day!

II Timothy 3:13 *But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

DEFN. of THE LAST DAYS and where it is found in the Bible:

- The term “Last Days” is a SEASON that defines the period between the 1st and 2nd coming of CHRIST
- Biblical foundation for the term “Last Days”: **ACTS 2:17** And it shall come to pass in the **last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...

I. One of the definitions of SIN is “LAWLESSNESS”. If SIN is allowed to continue in a FREE WILL SOCIETY, it will have a DAMAGING & CORROSIVE EFFECT taking the world forward to the “DAYS of NOAH” and the “RAPTURE of the CHURCH” and downward in preparation of the arrival of the “MAN of SIN” and the time of the TRIBULATIONAL PERIOD!

II Timothy 3:1-9 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

The word “*Perilous*” is translated differently in other bible versions:

- *Perilous* - NIV uses the word “terrible”
- *Perilous* - New Living Translation uses the word “very difficult”
- *Perilous* - English Standard uses the words “times of difficulty”
- *Perilous* - New King James, New American Standard use the word “difficult”
- *Perilous* - Amplified Bible uses “dangerous times of great stress and trouble”

Strong Concordance the word “**PERILOUS**” comes from the Greek word “**CHALEPOS**” and offers the following meaning: *difficult, dangerous, fierce, perilous*. **Sin makes the times perilous!**

****Matthew Henry Commentary:** The coming of perilous times is evidence of the truth of scripture-predictions; if the event in this respect did not answer to the prophecy, we might be tempted to question the divinity of the Bible.

II. Notice: THE DIVERSE DARKNESS OF SOCIETY IN THE LAST DAYS - DUE TO THE DOWNWARD PROGRESSION OF SIN!

Jesus foresaw such a condition in the world in the Last Days and stated in Luke 17:26-29 *And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*

Our TEXT: II Timothy 3:1-9 LISTS 23 SINS & Romans 1:22-32 LISTS 28 SINS that mark the downward path of sin in the society of the LAST DAYS!

In total – a List of over 50 diverse and devastatingly DARK LIFESTYLES of the people in the LAST GENERATION BEFORE THE RAPTURE and at the beginning of the TRIBULATIONAL PERIOD!

Galatians 5:19-21 as discussed at length in our previous sermon - Lists the 17 Works of the Flesh:

Galatians 5:21 and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

****Matthew Henry Commentary:** *These are sins which will undoubtedly shut men out of heaven.*

Seventeen Works or Sins of the Flesh:

(1)Adultery, (2)Fornication, (3)Uncleanness (morally or spiritually impure, obscene, or vile), **(4)Lasciviousness** (*Lewd, lustful*) by which are meant not only the gross acts of these sins, but all such thoughts, and words, and actions, toward lascivious behavior; **(5)Idolatry, (6)Witchcraft, (7)Hatred, (8)Variance**, (the fact or state of being in disagreement : dissension, dispute), **(9)Emulations** (desire or ambition to equal or surpass a rival as one would in a contest), **(10)Wrath** (strong anger; often with a desire for revenge), **(11)Strife**, (bitter and sometimes violent conflict, struggle, or rivalry), **(12)Seditions** (actions or words intended to provoke or incite rebellion against authority), **(13)Heresies** (an opinion or belief that contradicts established religious teaching), **(14)Envy** (the resentful or unhappy feeling of wanting somebody else's success, good fortune, qualities, or possessions), **(15)Murders, (16)Drunkenness** (overcome by alcoholic liquor to the point of losing one's control over one's faculties), **(17)Reveling** (participating in uproarious parties or celebrations)

All 50 common characteristics listed in OUR TEXT of sinners in the Last Days can be categorized and placed into one of the 17 Sins of the Flesh with many characteristics fitting into more than one category!

Example 1: II Timothy 3:2 *For men shall be lovers of their own selves,* fits into the sins of **Idolatry & Emulations** (desire or ambition to equal or surpass a rival as one would in a contest)

Example 2: Romans 1:22-32 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,* fits into the sins of **Variance** (the fact or state of being in disagreement : dissension, dispute) and **Heresies** (an opinion or belief that contradicts established religious teaching)

III. The corrupting effects of Sin in our Modern Society... LET US LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES:

(1). **The cost for the defense of our nation from evil foreign governments:** *the US defense budget for 2024 was \$883.7b (\$2,599 per person living in the US per 340 million US population) (Google AI)*

(2). **Crime:** *over 14 million criminal offenses reported in 2024 reported by over 16,000 state, county, city, university & college, and tribal agencies (FBI Statistics)*

Note: a crime occurred every 25.9 seconds on average

(3). **Alcohol/Drug Abuse:** *Alcohol Related Cost to Society \$249b in 2024 (Google AI)*

Illegal Drug Cost to Society \$193b in 2024 (Google AI)

Prescription Drugs Abuse Cost to society \$78.5b in 2014 (Google AI)

Workers Lost Productivity Cost to Society over \$759b (Est.) (Google AI)

Total Estimated Cost in 2024 = over \$1.25 trillion (\$3,676 for every person in the US per year)

(4). **Murder:** *19,800 murders in the US in 2023 (over twice the population of Covington, TN)*

Note: a murder occurred every 31.1 minutes on average (FBI Statistics)

Note 2: Globally: around 458,000 murders in 2021 (over twice the population of Little Rock, AR)

(5). **Suicides:** *almost 49,000 suicides reported in 2024 (10th leading cause of deaths in the US)*

(6). **Abortions:** *1,038,000 abortions in the US in 2024 (ref. Guttmacher Institute).*

Note: The highest number in over a decade!

(7). **Robberies:** *\$112b lost due to theft in 2022 (ref. National Retailers Federation) \$112b represents \$329 loss for each person living in the US (per 340 million US population).*

A devastating sum to be paid for by increasing the price of merchandise for us all!

(8). **Rapes:** *140,000 reported to law enforcement in 2019 (FBI Statistics)*

estimated 420,000 total when including nonreported rape cases

(9). **Pornography:** *online and on TV - \$287b spent in 2023 (Transparency Market Research)*

The website Pornhub was the 6th most popular website in the world in 2024 with 5.6 billion views

(10). **Gambling:** *\$116b spent on gambling in US in 2024 (ref. Google AI)*

Note: 116b represents \$341 for every person living in the US (per 340 million US population)

(11). **Divorce:** *672,502 divorces in US in 2023 (ref. National Center for Health Statistic)*

(12). **Today we see an all-out frontal attack upon the Children:** *the Perversion & Corruption of young Children's Minds and Futures!*

(13). **A total disregard/disrespect for Christians, our Clergy, and the entire Church in general!**

Charlie Kirk Assassination Example: *the joyous celebration, laughing, lying, and joking over the murder of a Christian! ISN'T THIS AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE EVIL SOCIETY OF THE LAST DAYS!*

The murder of God's Two Witnesses in Revelation 11:7-11 *...the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*

IV. PROOF that SIN is WORSE today than when I was a boy - CRIME STATISTICS 1960 vs. 2019
(crime per 100,000 population) (ref.: <http://www.disastercenter.com> United States Crime Rates 1960-2019)

Crime Category	1960	2019	% change
<i>total crime</i>	1,887.2	2,489.3	+31.9%
<i>murder</i>	5.1	5.0	-2 %
<i>property theft</i>	1,726.3	2,109.9	+22.2%
<i>violent crime</i>	160.9	379.4	+135.5%
<i>aggravated assault</i>	86.1	250.2	+190%
<i>forcible rape</i>	9.6	42.6	+340%
<i>robbery</i>	60.1	81.6	+35.5%
<i>vehicle theft</i>	183	250.2	+36.5%

V. God's Reaction Toward a Downward and Sinful Society:

Romans 1:24 *God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves (i.e., fornication/adultery):*

Romans 1:26 *God gave them up unto vile affections:* for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (i.e., homosexual sins)

Romans 1:28 *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.*

SINCE THEY HATED GOD AND WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AS THEIR CREATOR - GOD ABANDONED THEM & ALLOWED THEM TO GO EVEN DEEPER INTO DARKER & GREATER SINS!

The effects of Sin are the cause of today's partial collapse and the soon coming total collapse of our Modern Society:

VI. THE LAWLESS ONE IS SOON TO COME! (Antichrist)

II Thessalonians 2:3,5-8 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...** Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For **the mystery of iniquity doth already work:** only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Closing:

OUR BLESSED HOPE – THE PROMISE OF A WONDERFUL CHANGE FOR CHRISTIANS!

AT MIDNIGHT THERE WAS A CRY! (*at the darkest time of a fallen and sinful world*)

HALLELUJAH THE KING IS COMING!

Matthew 25:6-10 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

AFTERWARDS, A SINLESS WORLD AWAITS US IN HEAVEN!

God will NEVER allow sin to enter the perfect environment of heaven.

Allowing sin into heaven would be worst than allowing a mad dog to freely roam the streets of our cities. As seen from our sermon, sin would quickly corrode the perfect environment of heaven and spoil all that it touched! God will never allow heaven to become like our fallen earth!

Revelation 22:14-15 *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*