

**Ready And Prepared
For
Stressful Times**

`Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world... Only Luke is with me... Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm... At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them`

(2 Tim.4:10,11,14&16)

***'Bring the cloak that I left with
Carpus at Troas when you come—
and the books, especially the
parchments'
(2 Tim.4:13)***

*'But know this, that in the last days
perilous times will come...'*

(2 Tim.3:1)

***'For men will be lovers of themselves,
lovers of money, boasters, proud,
blasphemers, disobedient to parents,
unthankful, unholy, unloving,
unforgiving, slanderers, without self-
control, brutal, despisers of
good, traitors, headstrong, haughty,
lovers of pleasure rather than lovers
of God, having a form of godliness
but denying its power. And from such
people turn away!'***

(2 Tim.3:2-5)

**The characteristics Paul describes
speak not of bad *times* but of
bad *people***

**The first of the qualities mentioned
is a life that is centred in self**

**The adjective used is *philautos*,
which means *self-loving*, i.e. the
centre of gravity of the natural man
is self rather than God**

'...evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived'

(2 Tim.3:13)

Evil men = open enemies of Jesus

Impostors = tares amongst the wheat

How to be prepared for these difficult times

**All opposition can be answered by the
Word of God**

***'Remember that Jesus Christ, of the
seed of David, was raised from the
dead according to my gospel, for which
I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to
the point of chains; but the word of God
is not chained'
(2 Tim.2:8-9)***

Why was he so confident in it?

Because it is the Word of God

***'All Scripture is given by inspiration
of God...'***

(2 Tim.3:16)

**'But, anyone can write a book and
claim it's God's Word'**

The Bible gives a satisfactory explanation to the whole of life's situation

- ❖ the true origins and source of all things
- ❖ how suffering came into the world
- ❖ the purpose of life
- ❖ life after death
- ❖ the way of salvation
- ❖ how we can know God and have a relationship with Him

The Bible is a book which has dramatically changed the lives of hundreds of millions of people

'For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart'

(Heb.4:12)

**The Bible has been attacked more
than any other book in history**

**It has been banned, burned, mocked,
twisted, assailed by every kind of
enemy, including Roman emperors,
skeptics, philosophers, athiests, clergy
living in the Middle Ages (and modern
times), archaeologists, communist
dictators, scientists, etc.**

**Yet, survived for thousands of years
and proven to be indestructible**

The Bible is 30% prophetic

***Foretelling the history of nations**

***The advent of the Saviour**

***The future of Israel**

“Present your case,” says the LORD. “Bring forth your strong reasons,” says the King of Jacob. “Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; let them show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare to us things to come. Show the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; yes, do good or do evil, that we may be dismayed and see it together. Indeed you are nothing, and your work is nothing; he who chooses you is an abomination”

(Isa.41:21-24)

**The Bible was written by 40
contributors over 1600 years**

**These writers came from different
walks of life with vast differences in
background, education, vocabulary
and occupations**

**They wrote in many different
locations and from various countries
and on three continents**

Yes, evil men and imposters will get worse and worse

But the Word of God is greater than all

"All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you'
(1 Pet.1:24-25)

'...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work'

(2 Tim.3:15-17)

1) Believe the Word of God because through it we are saved

2) Read and hear it because it will keep us straight in a crooked world.

Doctrine – reproof – correction - instruction

'So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified' (Acts 20:32)

3) Trust it because it will completely equip us for every good work

4) Be mentored by those build on it

'But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions...'
(2 Tim.3:10-11)

5) Share it with the world

'Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching'
(2 Tim.4:2)