



THE FUTURE

2 Timothy 3:1-5

The Bible says, "But realize this, that in the last days _____ times will come." Those "difficult times" are _____. Truth and morality have been _____; they have been turned upside down in the hearts of many people; and they've been replaced with _____. People actually show contempt these days for what's _____, and some have made their brand of Christianity into a religion of entertainment and enterprise. America has thousands of religious bookstores but people know _____ about God or the Bible. American society has dismissed God and His Word, the _____.

As our _____ slowly turns its back on God, we face great challenges ahead. We've got to appear as _____ in the world, holding fast the word of life. By our lives and by our message we've got to _____ as God's people (Romans 12:2). Over 70 percent of Americans believe that the moral _____ of this country are getting worse. The break-down of the _____, the loss of reverence for God, the nearly universal practice of the foul _____, and a blind eye toward sexual immorality has caused many people to disregard _____ altogether. People no longer _____ how to blush or when to be ashamed of their ungodliness. They _____ of their sinful lives.

Many _____ these days never speak about sin, and many young people grow up untaught on the subjects of right and wrong. These young adults _____ their lives morally, because they don't know any better. They don't know any better because their parents and their preachers _____ to teach them God's will. Perhaps one _____ many people have stopped going to church is because many churches have so compromised their faith and morals that they don't offer any spiritual _____ to people.

Being a Christian or associating with the Christian _____ is not as attractive to Americans as it used to be. We ask why? First, because the media has pictured the Christian faith as something _____ or fanatical or unreasonable. Second, many people find it harder and harder to locate someone they think is a genuine _____. People _____ Jesus Christ but they find it hard to embrace Christianity or the church. They see a real disconnect between American Christianity and the Jesus Christ of the _____. What many Americans think Jesus Christ is like is very _____ from what the Holy Scriptures describe Him to be. Sixty percent of Americans believe that Jesus Christ committed _____ while He was on earth. But the Bible clearly says that Jesus, even though He was _____ in all points like we, remained without sin (Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 Peter 2:22). What many people think about Christ and the Christ of the Bible are _____ different things. Some folks stress what they _____ about Christianity and the church and then they just kind of set aside what they don't like. They're not following God; they're following what they manufacture in their _____. The real measure of _____ about Christ and the church comes from Scripture not popular perceptions or opinion polls.

We might ask, "Is God involved in the world _____?" Well, 29 percent of Americans believe that God _____ the events on Earth, but 44 percent say that God just watches; He observes but He doesn't control what happens. Many people assume that if people disagree on their _____ about God, that we really can't understand anything about God. This is what happens when people turn their own _____ into the truth rather than going to the Bible to find the truth about God. They become _____. God is indeed _____ in our world today! He _____ up those who are righteous and He punishes those who are wicked (Jeremiah 18:7-10). When people assume that God isn't involved, they begin to feel _____ to do as they please morally and spiritually. Nearly nine out of ten adults (88%) say that their religious _____ is very important in their life. But 71% say that they are going to _____ their own

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set of religious beliefs rather than accept what God reveals in the Bible. Only about a third of Americans believe in absolute _____ truth. And in _____, they become their own god and have dismissed the God of heaven for their own thinking.

The Lord God in Hosea chapter 4 _____ ancient Israel when they stopped following Him. He built a case against them because they _____ faithfulness, kindness, and knowledge of God. They were _____ in swearing, and deception, and murder, and stealing, and adultery. They had become violent and bloodshed followed bloodshed, but they didn't want anyone telling them that they were _____. In fact, the passage says no one was to find _____, and no one was to accuse them. That was their _____. They would even _____ with the Jewish priest about what is sin because they didn't want to _____ to him. Doesn't that _____ like today?

I don't want God to forget my children on account of my _____ to teach them what the Bible says about righteousness and morality (read Hosea 4:6). I want my children to _____ righteously and godly lives. I want them to _____ to God for an eternity; and I must teach them the Lord's way and set a Christian example for them.

It shouldn't surprise us that the world, if _____, will become more and more worldly! Our country needs just what it has always needed, and that's _____ in Jesus Christ, _____ for a better world, and _____ for God and our fellow man. We still need the _____ of the world and the _____ of the earth in Christians who live their faith and believe the Word of God. Living our faith according to the _____ of the Scripture is what made this country great.

There's more to the traditional family, the _____ family, than a marriage license. The home as God would have it is still the most _____ place on earth, filled with love and hope. Statistics show that children who grow up in godly, Christian homes with both parents have the best opportunity to achieve _____ and success in life.

We need godly, _____ men and women who will be faithful and loving spouses and parents, people who are committed to serving God and their families. We need parents who will put their _____ before their jobs or their pleasures. We need Christian fathers who take seriously the role of _____ their children spiritually (Ephesians 6:4). We need godly, morally pure women who know how to love their husbands and their children (Titus 2:4-5). We may not reverse the trends of this culture toward godlessness, but we can determine to make a _____ in our own lives.

We don't know what the future holds, but we do know the _____ of the future. Life brings many _____. Read Ecclesiastes 9:11-12. We don't always get what we _____; life is not always fair. Whatever happens in the future, there are _____ unchangeable things. There are some absolute _____. First, the Word of God will not _____ or disappear (Matthew 24:35). Second, Jesus Christ will never _____ loving people. God offers His grace and mercy to all who will _____ to Him in faith, love and obedience. You might think that when things go _____ that God somehow stops loving us, but that's not the case. We can put our _____ and hope in God, no matter what (Romans 8:35-39). We must go again and again to God and His Word for the _____ to life's questions (2 Timothy 3:13-17). We must also be _____ for the future. The Bible promises Jesus will _____ again to raise the dead, to destroy the world, and to judge every person. We prepare for that day by _____ the Lord's teaching (John 12:48). To become a Christian, believe in the Lord Jesus with all your heart, repent of your sins, confess Jesus as the Christ, and be baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-7; Acts 2:38).