

Hard Times

Hard saying... (Jn.6:60)

- They started following Jesus for food
- They argued with Him, got frustrated, walked away from the Savior

Perilous, 2 Tim.3:1

- Hard, difficult
- Hard times threaten Lord's church
 1. We hear of many problems, early stages of apostasies [5... 6-7... 8]
 2. Paul prepares Timothy (and us) for hard times

I. The days described, 1-5

Last days (v.1)

- Time between Acts 2 and Lord's final coming.
- Daily news may not use words of this passage, but they describe the same old vices.
- Our materialistic culture loves the “new morality” ... (abysmally confused ... religiously rebellious).

2 Tim. 1:1-4, eighteen sins

Emphasis on 'lost' loves

- Paul speaks of future, but previously referred to these sins in the present tense.
 - “Unloving” (v.3) = Ro.1:31
- “Love”: mixture of wrong actions and wrong attitudes.

2: lovers of themselves

- Selfishness is root sin from which all sins grow.
- 'Self love' is 'self-ish.
- Yields to unlawful desires.
- Mt.16:24-25 illustrates.

2: lovers of money

- Avaricious, fond of money
- Lk.16:14, Pharisees.
- Prosperity is more harmful to soul than poverty.
- What nation is more prosperous than US?

3: unloving

- Without natural affection
 - Seen in
 - Abortion
 - Child abuse
 - Euthanasia
 - Neglect of aged...

4: lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

- Drinking...drugs...promiscuity . . .
- Sins require more and more levels of excitement to gratify

5: result: “form of godliness”

- Not referring to pagan world (they had form of **un**godliness) ... but professed Christians
- They may attend regularly...
- Problem is not that the world is in love with world, but Christians are.
 - Hb.11:24-26
 - **What is the writer’s target audience?**

Greatest enemy to church:
not atheists but hypocrites

I. The days described, 1-5

II. The duty demanded, 10-17

- Solution is not
 - miracles. Israel. Ephesus, Ac.19
 - change Lord's church. Ac.20
 - political clout. Jn.19:38-41

The real solution . . .

10– **BUT YOU**: stayed (followed) word of God

13– **BUT evil men**: just keep getting worse

14– **BUT YOU**: continue in things learned

- Don't forget your armor: three synonyms
 - 14: continue in *things you have learned*
 - 15-16: holy Scriptures
 - 16: All Scripture *breathed out by God*
 - 15: *through faith in Christ...* (not OT alone – 16, *all Scripture*)... 10 (14) my doctrine
 - 1 Tim.5:18, '*Scripture says*' ... (Luke 10:7)

I. The days described, 1-5

I. The duty demanded, 10-17

III. The danger described, 13

Inerrancy is under attack

- “Bible is word of God, but there are different words of God.”
 - Wrong! Bible is inspired; no other is.
 - Buddha
 - Confucius
 - Koran
 - Contrast Jesus

Inerrancy is under attack

- “Bible is word of God, but there are different words of God.”
- “OK, it’s inspired, but not all of it.”
 - Plenary inspiration, 2 Tim.3 (‘all’)

Inerrancy is under attack

- “Bible is word of God, but there are different words of God.”
- “OK, it’s inspired, but not throughout.”
- “But it’s *thought* inspiration, not verbal”
 - Wrong. It is verbally inspired.
Gal.3:16 (28)

Inerrancy is under attack

- “Bible is word of God, but there are different words of God.”
- “OK, it’s inspired, but not throughout.”
- “But it’s not inspired in words”
- “But that doesn’t mean it is without error”
 - Wrong: infallible. Jn.10:31-33
 - 34: appeal to Scripture. Ps.82:6
 - 35: He called them ‘gods’ . . .
[Scripture cannot be broken]
 - 36: how much more the Son He sent...

Inerrancy is under attack

- “Bible is word of God, but there are different words of God.”
- “OK, it’s inspired, but not throughout.”
- “But it’s not inspired in words”
- “But that doesn’t mean it is without error.”
- “Okay, but there are still errors.”
 - Wrong! It is inerrant, infallible, plenary, verbally inspired. 2 Tim.3:16

Professors claim Bible is filled with errors

1. No writing in Moses' day? (Jn.5:46)

- Problem is the premise.
- Moses probably knew several languages (Hebrew, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Akkadian).
 - There were no fewer than six languages in that area during his time.
- Egypt: even slaves inscribed all sorts of information on walls where they worked.
- 500 years before Moses, in time of Abraham, there were libraries with thousands of volumes.

2. Gn.14, war of the kings

- 1889: Julius Wellhausen, critical attack against Gn.14...sheer impossibilities.
- The stones cried out
- 1890: Flinders Petrie, Albright, et al., excavated in Egypt: critical view now rarely held... [“geographical terms fit those times...”]

3. 2 Kings 15:19-20, 29, Tiglath-pileser

- Many once denied he ever lived.
- Irrefutable evidence: 20,000-30,000 bricks with his name on each.

4. Acts 16:12, 'part'

- F.J.A.Hort...Luke erred (Hort denied that this word could ever denote a geographical division; passage is corrupt.
 - Should be 'portion,' not 'part.'
- Then...examples of Luke's word turned up in papyri, an inscription, and late writers. Can mean Philippi was "a leading city of the district of Macedonia."
- Luke was right; Hort was wrong – Metzger

Nelson Gleuck, Jewish archaeologist

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”

He continued his assertion of “the almost incredibly accurate historical memory of the Bible, particular when we see that it is fortified by historical fact.”