



## The Reality of Apostasy [2 Timothy 3:1-9]

### 1. The Call to Expect Apostasy

- [a] Disordered loves
- [b] Disregard authority

### 2. The Call to Avoid Counterfeit

- [a] We affirm God's power
- [b] We speak the truth in love
- [c] We bear much fruit

### 3. The Call to Anticipate Clarity

## 2 Timothy 3:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> But **understand** this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.
- <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,
- <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
- <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. **Avoid** such people.
- <sup>6</sup> For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,
- <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.
- <sup>8</sup> *Just as* Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.
- <sup>9</sup> But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

## Discussion Questions

1. Look through the letter of 2 Timothy as a whole. Where else in it has Paul warned Timothy about times of difficulty?
2. What is the difficulty being considered in this (2 Timothy 3) passage? Why do you think it is important that Timothy and subsequent church leaders know about it?
3. What are the characteristics that Paul gives of a counterfeit Christian? Which verses refer to disordered loves? What does this mean about life in the church?
4. Look back at the two imperatives (bolded above) in the passage (*γίνωσκε* – “know!”, *ἀποτρέπου* – “turn away!”). How would these be applicable today?
5. What about this passage comforts you if you are disturbed? What about it disturbs you if you are comfortable?