

the church. It can of course be seen in the world, but religiosity has always been present amongst the ungodly.

This Biblical warning is in regards to those who call themselves Christians. They try to look godly and want to be known as Christ's followers, but they have no life changing power in them.

This is another sign of the perilous last days that can be seen in Christian book stores. There is an overwhelming abundance of Christian "self-help" books that lean on the philosophies and ideas of the world.

Instead of running to Jesus for help, many run to professionals for their "wisdom".

"Denying" - Strong's G720 - arneomai - "to deny - to deny someone"

"The power" - Strong's G1411 - dynamis - "strength power, ability - inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth - power for performing miracles - moral power and excellence of soul"

The last sign, "denying the power", is also directed to those who claim Christ. A modern denial of the power of God can routinely be heard in comments like this...

"Of course God can, but..."

God has His highest purposes for our lives, and His ways are the very best. Modern forms of godliness deny either that God can or that He is willing to meet our needs.

God says...

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" (2 Peter 1:3)

Conclusion:

In these "last days", genuine believers must avoid and reject fellowship with those that espouse these signs. This means we must:

- Learn to recognize the signs
- Remove ourselves from adherents to these end time ways
- And decide that we will follow Jesus!

*"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**"* (2 Timothy 3:5)

* Strong's - this is a reference to the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance which provides definitions for every word in the Bible.

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*"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, unbiblical, (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.**"*
(2 Timothy 3:1-5)

This is the fifth and final part in this series. We have been reviewing each of the earmarks of the "last days" from the list in the passage above. This message will examine the last items from this list.

Having studied the other characteristics from this list in the previous messages in this series, it has been sad to note the following:

Many of these attributes which the Bible **WARNS AGAINST** are taught and encouraged within the Christian church!

Committed Christians must not embrace the ways of the world!

PERILOUS TIMES! LAST DAYS WARNINGS! PART 5

The key to remember is that we must **recognize** these signs and **KEEP AWAY** from people who embrace and promote them. The last two words of the passage quoted above are “turn away”. This phrase means...

“Turn away” - Strong's G665 - apotrepo - “to turn one's self away from - to shun, avoid”

Those who embrace and endorse these end time earmarks should be avoided by God fearing Christians.

In this message we are going to study the following characteristics of the “last days”. “Highminded”, “Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”, “Having a form of godliness”, and “Denying the power thereof”.

“Highminded” - Strong's G5187 - typhoo - “to raise a smoke, to wrap in a mist - to make proud, puff up with pride, render insolent - to be puffed up with haughtiness or pride - to blind with pride or conceit, to render foolish or stupid”

This Greek word is used only three times in the Bible and is found in Paul's two letters to Timothy. In each case this word is essentially used to describe people who are unjustifiably arrogant.

Arrogance is never a good thing, but someone who possesses skills that lead to pride is quite different from another who has no such skills but still displays a haughty attitude.

This type of person attempts to impress by “blowing smoke”, “blinding”, or “fooling” people into thinking highly of them. Peter describes such people like this...

*“For when they speak **great swelling words of vanity**, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.” (2 Peter 2:18)*

Read 2 Peter chapter 2 for a good picture of these types of people.

In the world, people like this are easily identified by those who exercise discernment. However, the warnings in 2 Peter are directed at those in the church... those who appear to be followers of Jesus. Indeed we find many people writing books which teach us that we should think highly of ourselves, and how to do so. Rather, we need to re-evaluate our thoughts and align them with the Scriptures.

*“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **NOT TO THINK of himself MORE HIGHLY THAN HE OUGHT** to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3)*

“Lovers of pleasures” - Strong's G5369 - philedonos - “loving pleasure”

“Lovers of God” - Strong's G5377 - philotheos - “loving God”

This combination can easily be seen both inside and outside of Christendom. Of course the world hotly pursues its pleasures. Generally speaking, self-

satisfaction is the motivation of the world. Even in philanthropic endeavors, people **make themselves happy** by meeting the needs of others.

Today in Christianity (especially amongst Western believers) this is also very evident. Many Western Christians live in lavish homes, drive multiple and expensive cars, own all the modern technology, etc. Yet recent polling indicates that about 9% of born again Americans give 10% (a tithe) or more to the work of God.

The problem is not with **having** much, but instead it is with **hoarding** much. It should be noted that there are many generous Christians (at least among the 9% of poll respondents.)

Someone once said, “If you want to know where a person's heart is, look at their check-book.”

God says it this way...

*“For **where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**” (Luke 12:34)*

“Form” - Strong's G3446 - morphosis - “a forming, shaping - form - the mere form, semblance”

“Of godliness” - Strong's G2150 - eusebeia - “reverence, respect - piety towards God, godliness”

In the case of this phrase “form of godliness”, this end time sign is most specifically directed at