

“honors” so that individuals can “boast” in accomplishments that they did not achieve. “Empty Pretenders”

Another realm in which this can be seen is in the “Self Esteem” movement. The church has embraced the world’s psychology of “self esteem” and there are no end to the books that will teach you how to esteem yourself in a “healthy manner”.

This can easily blend into a subtle “boaster” scenario. The Bible tells us that we can **DO NOTHING** without Jesus. If this is true (and it is), then where should we place our esteem? What (or Who) should we value? **JESUS!**

Instead of learning “self-esteem”, a serious and in depth study of Jesus and growing in “Christ esteem” will be of infinitely greater value.

“Proud” - Strong's G5244 - hyperēphanos - “showing one's self above others, overtopping, conspicuous above others, pre-eminent - with an overweening estimate of one's means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty”

Unlike the “boaster”, the “proud” person is not empty. The “proud” individual most likely has something that they can be proud of (if they choose to live carnally).

A “proud” person over-estimates themselves and what they have to be proud of. A proud person will attempt to elevate themselves above others, and seek positions of superiority.

So a boaster brags about what he does not possess, but a proud man boasts in what he does possess. BOTH are dangerous and need to be avoided.

Conclusion:

When Jesus' disciples asked Him for the signs of the end of the world and His return, Jesus answered them and said that they should be careful of deception.

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.” (Matthew 24:4)

We see Paul instructing Timothy about the same “end times” problems... deception. As we can see, each of the characteristics of the “last days” that we have looked at in this message, has already crept into the church.

The Bible **WARNS AGAINST** it...
...unfortunately the church embraces it!

Surely, we are in the “last days”!

Here is what true Christians must do...

*“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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Perilous Times!

Last Days Warnings!

Part 1

By: Robert Dallmann

*“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, unboly, (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)

In this series, we will examine these signs of the perilous times in which we live. Each message will review a few of these markings of the “last days”.

Sadly, many of these signs of the end times have crept into the realms of Christianity today. Often, Christian churches teach and endorse what the Bible **WARNS AGAINST**.

The real church must not embrace the ways of the world!

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

PERILOUS TIMES! LAST DAYS WARNINGS! PART 1

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

True Christians should shun and avoid attachments to those who fall into these categories and to the philosophies and ideas that endorse these types of pursuits.

In Part 1 of this series we are going to study the following characteristics of the “last days”. “Lovers of self”, “Covetous”, “Boasters”, and “Proud”.

“Lovers of their own selves” - Strong's* G5367 - philautos - “loving one's self - too intent on one's interest, selfish”

The first warning about the “last days” is that people would become “lovers of self”. Think about this one. Today there seems to be no end to the books that teach people how to “love themselves”. Dealing with “self hate” and a lack of “self worth” is a full-time job for many Christian counselors.

The Bible calls for God's people to “die to self” (of course, this is not a physical death, but rather a dying to our rights and selfishness.)

Today we are taught that we need to learn how to love ourselves properly... but God warns that “self love” is a danger of the “last days”!

Are we in the “last days”?

The fact that people love themselves so much that they buy books that teach them how to love themselves even more is evidence of this.

Christians do not need to learn how to love themselves more... they need God's help to reckon themselves as crucified with Christ and allow Jesus to live through them.

“Covetous” - Strong's G5366 - philargyros - “loving money, avarice”

The next warning sign of the “last days” is an unreasonably powerful greed, an intense desire to obtain and keep money.

This one seems obvious to Christians. We look around and the “love of money” is everywhere! Those who have money, love it and greedily seek ways to get more. Those without money, love it and wish for and yearn to obtain it.

But what about inside of Christianity? Recent polls indicate that between 9% and 12% of born again Americans give tithes (10%) or more. How does this compare with New Testament giving? Here is one example...

*“For **there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would **sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales** (35) and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.**”*
(Acts 4:34-35)

In the early church, giving was **GENEROUS** and **no one was needy**. In the modern church, giving is **minimal** and **many are needy**.

Likewise, modern Christianity has many authors, preachers, and teachers who advocate a prosperity message. These teachings offer allegedly Biblical “methods” for gaining or amassing wealth.

Therefore, on the one hand, giving is on the decline in Christian circles. While on the other hand, many flock to teachings that promise increased wealth.

In every case, we must search the Scriptures to see if what we are being taught is true (see Acts 17:10-11).

We must be very cautious of covetousness.

“Boasters” - Strong's G213 - alazon - “an empty pretender, a boaster”

Another sign of the “last days” is an increase in boasters... “empty pretenders”. Surely the evidence of this can be readily seen in the world. Many make bold claims but have little or nothing to back it up.

This one may not be a clear to see within the church; however, if you interact with large communities (online forums are one example), you will readily see many “empty pretenders”. Many will claim doctorate degrees, yet they either have none or they have an honorary degree which was not earned. Many Christians pursue titles and honors to bolster their own influence.

Thus, the Bible warns about “boasters” as a sign of the perilous “last days”, but many Christian organizations sell “titles”, “degrees”, and other