

Who Says?

Thriving In Morally Challenging Times
From The Series Thriving In Challenging Times - Part 2

The mindset of our culture:

There are no moral absolutes.

I can make my own rules as I see fit.

I don't have to answer to anybody else.

2 Timothy 3:1-6 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that! They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires.

Questions of faith that you must resolve:

Is there a God?

Has He spoken and how has He spoken?

Who speaks for Him now?

Does man have *any* God-given moral authority over others?

2 Timothy 4:1-3 I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.

Complications:

The abuse of power.

The immorality of leadership

1 Timothy 3:10; 14-17 But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance.....But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

THREE MORAL SAFEGUARDS:

H _____ and T _____

THE W _____ OF G _____

T _____ L _____