

Difficult Days, Part 2: The State of People
Devoid of God
2 Timothy 3:2-5

I. The state of people at the end of the age will be evil (vs. 2-5).

According to the Scriptures, people will be:

lovers of self [φίλαυτος (philautos)]

- loving oneself, selfish
- *philautos* (an adjective, derived from *philos*, "lover" and *autós*, "of self")

lovers of money [φιλάργυρος (philarguros)]

- fond of money, avaricious
- money-loving, avaricious, covetous.
- (from *philos*, "lover" and *árgyros*, "of silver") – properly, a lover of money (literally, silver) – i.e. someone (literally) "in love with personal gain (having money)."

boastful [ἀλαζών (alazón)]

- boastful, braggart
- vagabond, an impostor, boaster
- one who gives one's self airs in a loud and flaunting way.

arrogant [ὑπερήφανος (huperephanos)]

- arrogant, haughty, proud
- showing oneself above others
- (from *hypér*, "beyond, over" and *phaínō*, "shine forth") – properly, *over-shine*, trying to be *more* than what *God* directs, i.e. going beyond the faith He imparts (cf. Ro 12:2,3).

revilers [βλάσφημος (blasphémos)]

- defaming, denigrating, demeaning
- slanderous, evil-speaking, a blasphemer.
- what is blasphemous (reverses spiritual and moral realities).

disobedient [ἀπειθής (apeithés)]

- unbelieving, disobedient, who will not be persuaded.
- *apeithés* ("unpersuaded") begins with the decision to reject what *God prefers*, with His offer to *persuade* about His preferred-will.

ungrateful [ἀχάριστος (acharistos)]

- ungrateful, ungracious, displeasing.
- (an adjective, derived from A "not" and *xarízomai*, "experiencing *grace*")

unholy [ἀνόσιος (anosios)]

- pertaining to being in opposition to God or what is sacred, *unholy*
- unholy, profane.
- (an adjective, derived from A, "without" and *hósios*, "reverence for what should be hallowed")

unloving [ἄστοργος (astorgos)]

- lacking in good feelings for others, thereby jeopardizing the maintenance of relationships (e.g. political and familial) that are essential to a well-ordered society; *hardhearted*, *unfeeling*, *without regard for others*.
- devoid of natural or instinctive affection, without affection to kindred
- from alpha (as a neg. prefix) and *storgé* (family affection)

irreconcilable [ἄσπονδος (aspondos)]

- of one who is unwilling to negotiate a solution to a problem involving a second party, *irreconcilable*
- without libation, without truce, admitting of no truce

- (an adjective which is the negation of *spondē*, "a libation-sacrifice" used for making treaties and covenants)

malicious gossips [διάβολος (diabolos)]

- one who engages in slander; *the adversary/devil*
- slanderous, accusing falsely
- properly, a slanderer; a *false accuser*; unjustly criticizing to *hurt (malign)* and *condemn* to *sever a relationship*.

without self-control [ἀκρατής (akratés)]

- without self-control, dissolute, powerless, impotent
- (an adjective, derived from A "without" and *krátos*, "prevailing power")

brutal [ἀνήμερος (anémeros)]

- savage, brutal
- not tame, fierce, savage.
- from alpha (as a neg. prefix) and *hémeros* (tame)

haters of good [ἀφιλάγαθος (aphilagathos)]

- pertaining to lack of generous interest in the public good, *without interest in the (public) good*
- without love of good
- not loving that which is good.
- (from A, "not" and *philágathos*, "a friend, lover of what is good") – properly, a *hater of good* describing someone who is hostile to the things of God – i.e. an active opponent (enemy) of God's kingdom (good).

treacherous [προδοτής (prodotés)]

- traitor, betrayer

reckless [προπετής (propetés)]

- pertaining to being impetuous, *rash, reckless, thoughtless*
- (an adjective derived from *pró*, "before" and *ρίπτω*, "to fall")

conceited [τυφώω (tuphoó)]

- be blinded, become foolish, to be conceited
- I puff up, make haughty; pass: I am puffed up, am haughty.
- (from *typhos*, "smoke") – properly, to blow smoke, cloud up the air

lovers of pleasure [φιλήδονος (philédonos)]

- pertaining to having a special interest in pleasure, *loving pleasure*
- pleasure-loving.

form [μόρφωσις (morphósis)]

- the state of being formally structured, *embodiment, formulation, form*
- form, outline, semblance.

godliness [εὐσέβεια (eusebeia)]

- awesome respect accorded to God, *devoutness, piety, godliness*
- (from *eú* "well" and *sébomai*, "venerate, pay homage")
- properly, someone's inner response to the things of God which shows itself in godly *piety (reverence)*.

denied [ἀρνεόμαι (arneomai)]

- to disclaim association with a person or event, *deny, repudiate, disown*
- to refuse to pay any attention to, *disregard, renounce*
- to deny, say no
- properly, deny (refuse); hence, *contradict*, refuse to affirm or to confess (identify with); disown (repudiate).

II. The state of people will reflect antichrist.

A. The Spirit of God will be rejected.

B. The spirit of lawlessness will increase.

(Matthew 24:4-14; Romans 8:29; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 2:1-5, 10; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Revelation 6:12-17; 16:2-11; 18:8-20)

III. The state of people will be devoid of God.

- A. People will love themselves.
- B. People will pursue worldliness.
- C. People will use religion as a disguise.
- D. People will take pleasure in wickedness.

Scripture References

Matthew 24:4-14

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. ⁶ You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸ **But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.** ⁹ “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰ At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹² Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. ¹⁴ This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

¹ But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron...

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

Galatians 5:16-25

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:1-5, 10

¹ And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren...

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

¹ Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Revelation 6:12-17

¹² I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. ¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Revelation 16:2-11

² So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. ³ The second *angel* poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died. ⁴ Then the third *angel* poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; ⁶ for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." ⁷ And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." ⁸ The fourth *angel* poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. ⁹ Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory. ¹⁰ Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the

throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, ¹¹ and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

Revelation 18:8-20

⁸ For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. ⁹ “And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of immorality* and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ ¹¹ “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more— ¹² cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind of* citron wood and every article of ivory and every article *made* from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, ¹³ and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargoes* of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives. ¹⁴ The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and *men* will no longer find them. ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, ¹⁶ saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; ¹⁷ for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, ¹⁸ and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What *city* is like the great city?’ ¹⁹ And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’ ²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”