

**Last Days**  
**Part 2**  
**“Collapse in Character”**

**Matt 24: 9-12 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”**

**Notice the adjectives Jesus uses to describe the character of people in the last days—betrayers, haters, liars, deceivers, lawless, and loveless.**

**Our Lord is pointing to a tragic decline in mankind’s character as the time of His return draws near.**

**All the adjectives He uses are character qualities. Men will betray one another, hate one another, lie to one another, deceive one another, and will not possess natural, loving affection.**

**It’s a ghastly list!**

**Bottom line: In the last days, humanity will increasingly adopt a negative attitude toward God's Word and will reject obeying it.**

**They will opt instead to doing whatever they decide is right. This lawlessness, which at its core is selfish and self-centered, will cause people to greatly lack mercy, forgiveness, natural affection and love.**

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**Paul the Apostle went even further in describing the character of latter days mankind 2 Timothy:**

**2 Tim. 3:1-5 "But realize this, that in the last days trying, difficult, and dangerous times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good..."**

**The Apostle Peter chimed in by predicting the rise of mockers and scoffers in the last days:**

**2 Peter 3:3-4 "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell**

**asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."**

**Notice how scoffers will ridicule Christians that are anticipating the return of Christ. They will openly mock their faith in the return of Jesus. These scoffers have always been around, but they will multiply in the last of the last days.**

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**Would you agree that we are living in "perilous times"?**

**I believe we are! But you might ask, "How can we be in the last days when so many people around the world are living normal happy lives, without a care in the world?"**

**Listen to what Jesus said:**

**Matthew 24:37-39 'But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.'**

**In Noah's day, the judgment of God was right around the corner. God's man, Noah, was busy every day building an ark of deliverance, and warned of the approaching judgment of God.**

**No one listened. No one paid attention. They ignored his warnings and continued with business as usual, utterly blind to their fast approaching fate!**

**Likewise, the reason so many people are carrying on with business as usual today is because, like those in Noah's day, they don't see the signs and they don't know what is about to happen to this world.**

**So they blindly carry on living as if nothing is going to happen, and they will continue to live "business as usual" lives right up until the second coming of Jesus, at which point their lives will come to an abrupt end!**

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**Now, let's take a look at 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and compare what the Apostle Paul says about man's character in the last days with where we are in 2020. Paul writes:**

**\*In the Last Days People Will be Lovers of Themselves**

**Would you say that we are living in a world full of people who love themselves? I don't know that there's ever been a more narcissistic, self-centered, self-serving generation in history than ours! We're taught to "take care of number one (You)."**

**Our culture encourages us toward self help, to self-actualize, self-discover, to get into self-analysis, self-realization, self-acceptance, and to grow in our self esteem.**

**Yet the Bible doesn't teach ANY of these things about self!**

**The Bible teaches to die to yourself, crucify yourself, esteem others more than yourself, and to love God ABOVE yourself!**

**But the Last Days character of people will be the opposite.**

**They will put themselves first before God and everyone else. I believe we see that today, even in the churches. People are more concerned with how they look on the outside than how they are on the inside. This consumer age we live in is all about "Me Me Me!!"**

**As Paul the Apostle so succinctly put it, "Everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 2:21).**

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**Then next, Paul said:**

**\*In the Last Days People Will be Covetous**

**Instead of seeking after heavenly riches, the majority of people today are seeking for material, worldly riches. We live in an age**

**where people clamor for the latest trendy stuff, and are always longing for more.**

**In the last days, men will be obsessively materialistic, chasing after money, cars, houses, clothes and other material things. It will be a type of modern day IDOLATRY. IDOLATRY is anything in your life that replaces God.**

**Satan is the grand master at diverting people's attention away from God to materialism, convincing them that in stuff and things they will find fulfillment.**

**When Jesus faced the devil in the wilderness, Satan confronted Him with 3 key temptations, and one of them was materialism.**

**Matt 4:8-11 "Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all the wonderful things in them. 9 The devil said, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things."**

**Satan showed Jesus all the gold, the silver, the materialistic splendor of the richest kingdoms in the world. He then offered him a trade—"bow down and worship me, and I will give all these things to you."**

**10 Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan! The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!'"**

**He will offer the same tempting trade-off to last days mankind, but this time he will successfully lure them into choosing riches over God!**

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**Next, Paul predicts:**

**\*In the Last Days People Will be Boasters and Proud**

**The Bible says that pride was the cause of Satan's fall. He wanted to be exalted above God, and the world today is full of proud and boastful people.**

**One of the reasons people seek after material goods and wealth is because of pride. They want to be able to boast about the things they have and what they have achieved in a worldly sense. *LOOK AT ME* is the way of the world today!**

**The Apostle John said that our fallen world is driven by 3 things—the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the boastful **PRIDE** of life!**

**The **PRIDE OF LIFE** is the attitude of “I don’t need God.” “I can do this on my own.” “I’ve got it goin’ on.” “I can do anything I put my mind to,” and so on. It flows from an attitude of **PRIDE**.**

**Jesus said, “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.” (Matt 23:12).**

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**Next, Paul predicted:**

**\*In the Last Days Children Will be Disobedient to Parents**

**If you go back just 40 or 50 years you will find that children had far more respect for adults, but now we have a world full of children who have little or no respect for grown ups or authority in general.**

**Listen to what the Bible says about authority:**

**“For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished” (Romans 13:1-2).**

**Catch that! All this rioting we’re seeing, the over-the-top lack of respect for police, the lawlessness driving those who are destroying whole cities, the utter lack of fear of consequences—this is what Paul is talking about. I GUARANTEE you, the disrespect for authority we’re seeing in the streets began with disrespect for authority in the home!**

**Satan loves disobedience, and if he can get children to disobey at an early age, then they are going to find it more difficult to be obedient to God and to respect authority as they grow up.**

**But in the last days, lawlessness will abound and manifest in hatred of authority!**

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**\*In the Last Days People Will be Unthankful**

**I don't need to park here for long. Most of us recognize that one of THE reigning characteristics of society today is thanklessness. We live in an entitlement culture where people believe they are OWED everything they want. The government OWES me my education, OWES me my health care, OWES me my food, OWES me a house. And when government doesn't give it to them, they curse and rail against it.**

**In the last days, thanklessness, ingratitude, and an entitlement attitude will rule the day.**

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**\*In the Last Days People Will be Unholy**

**I don't need to expound much on this one either. I think we all know that holiness has gone the way of the Dodo bird in most**

**places. We live in a last days culture that holds no regard for what is sacred, godly, or sanctified. Vile language fills the airwaves. Immorality is flaunted with no fear of God whatsoever. Holiness is mocked while the worst kinds of immorality are celebrated.**

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**\*In the Last Days People Will be Without Natural Affection**

**This one strikes me particularly strongly, because it is so prevalent in our day. We are living in a culture that has placed it's seal of approval on killing late term babies in the womb, and even letting them die on a stainless steel table should they survive an abortion. That's not natural!**

**When New York Mayor Mario Cuomo signed the latest, hideous new abortion legislation into law, the gallery of politicians present—men and women—stood and cheered. That's not natural! Surely such a society is facing the judgment of God.**

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**\*In the Last Days People Will be Despisers of Those That are Good.**

**The word Paul uses for "despisers" means "haters of what is of God." Last days people will hate the Bible, the moral teaching of Scripture, the gospel, righteous living, and those that love**

**the Lord—Christians. The mild apathy or antipathy toward the gospel that characterized our nation in its earlier years has been ramped up to persecution. And it's only going to grow.**

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**Paul then says that:**

**\*In the Last Days People Will be Lovers of Pleasure More than Lovers of God.**

**In the last days the focus of mankind will be on sensual pleasure—not just sexual, but whatever coddles, comforts, and caresses the flesh. Entertainment, a life of ease. Jesus said that, in both the days of Noah and the days of Lot, men were focused on “eating and drinking,” as if it were one of their great pastimes. Focus on the cravings of the flesh will characterize the last days.**

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**And finally:**

**\*In the Last Days People Will Have a "Form" of Godliness only.**

**The last days will be characterized by people claiming to be Christian, but they aren't. They will outwardly “look” religious, but on the inside they will be anything but. God spoke through Isaiah the prophet to the people of that day, saying: "These**

**people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” (Isa. 29:13)**

**Jesus said that, when He comes to judge the world at His return, a group of people will say to Him, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matt. 7:22-23)**

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**When we look at these descriptions of the character of last days mankind we ask, “Are we there?”**

**Man has always been fallen and has always exhibited sinful, fallen, and depraved character qualities. But does it seem to be worsening? Ripening? Coming into full bloom?**

**The signs of the times seem to say so!**

**God is saying to his church, “Abide in the vine, my Son. Keep bearing fruit. Keep shining. Keep witnessing. Don’t faint. Keep on pushing gospel plow. He is near! At the door!**