

# THE TWELVE STEPS TO A FANTASTIC FINISH

## II Timothy 3:1-9

### Step Number Eight - Counter Culture: Lord, Where You Lead Me I Will Follow

We are talking about steps that are necessary to be taken in order to insure a fantastic finish.

Failure to prepare is preparation for failure.

We have reached step number eight.

### Step #8 – Counter Culture: Lord, Where You Lead Me I Will Follow

Counter Culture means NONCONFORMITY.

Everybody was shocked when Jenny Lind left her career at the height of it as an opera singer.

One of her friends found her at the beach one day with the Bible sitting on her knees and asked her why she made the decision to leave her career at the height of it all. She said, “When every day it made me think less of this (laying a finger on her Bible) and nothing at all of that (pointing to the sunset), what else could I do?”

You know, there are times in your life when you have to make decisions or as George Bernard Shaw said, “If you don’t make a decision, sometime it will be made for you.”

When we are defining our culture, we would use Judges 21:25 “*everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*”

You cannot do as you see fit and make a fantastic finish.

The **OVERRIDING PRINCIPLE** of this particular study is that:

**COUNTER CULTURE IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE A FANTASTIC FINISH** - That is, allowing the Lord to lead and to direct in our lives.

When I say counter culture today, I am using it in this context: It is living life His way and doing His will.

It is saying:

**“LORD, WHERE YOU LEAD ME I WILL FOLLOW!”**

Ray Boltz's *I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb* is the song of the counter culture.

**“I pledge allegiance to the Lamb  
With all my strength, with all I am  
I'll seek to honor His commands  
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb”**

The lifestyle necessary to make a fantastic finish is described for us in:

**Romans 12:1-2**

*“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

It is Jesus saying in:

John 18:36

*Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."*

In the early church there was no question that when the culture spoke and asked these men to restrain themselves from preaching the gospel, what did they say?

Acts 5:29

*"But Peter and the apostles answered and said, We must obey God rather than men."*

Acts 4:19-20

*"But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard."*

I thought, am I way off base when I say counter culture?  
I went to the dictionary.

The dictionary definition of COUNTER CULTURE is:  
culture in opposition to mainstream society:  
a culture that has ideas and ways of behaving that are consciously and deliberately very different from the cultural values  
of the larger society that it is part of . . .

Guess what?

We are not to be absorbed by society; we are to stand opposite the society and the direction it is going.

This is one of the longest lists that Paul has.  
In Galatians 5 he talks about the works of the flesh and there  
are  
15 of those.

And now here in chapter 3 when he is telling Timothy about  
what he can expect in the future, he comes up with 19  
characteristics of the society.  
It is a society where people have fallen into Satan's traps  
and this is what it looks like.

Now, with all that, are you ready to get in it?

Let's go to verse 1.

v. 1 *"But be knowing this, that in the last days hard times will  
set in."*

We could translate the word "BUT" as "YET":  
"YET [in CONTRAST] TO PRESENT EVILS,  
THERE WILL BE GREATER ONES IN THE FUTURE."

"BUT BE KNOWING THIS" could be translated:  
"CONSTANTLY BE KEEPING THIS IN MIND."

"IN THE LAST DAYS HARD TIMES WILL SET IN."

The "*last days*" refers to the time from the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ to His coming again to take us to be with Himself.  
We are living in the "*last days*"!

THE WORD "HARD" MEANS CRUEL.  
PEOPLE WILL BE CRUEL.  
They are days which are HARD TO BEAR.

Paul, I believe, means by this that:  
**EVIL WILL BE HAVING THE UPPER HAND.**

Moral foundations will be shaken and religious expression will be nothing more than an empty form and ritual.

**THIS IS SATAN'S LAST CHANCE  
HIS ALL-OUT ASSAULT,  
HIS BEST SHOT!**

Amos 8:11

*"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord, "when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord."*

Revelation 3:11

*"I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown."*

These evil and wicked days are well described by Darrell Scott. Darrell is Rachel's daddy. And Rachel was gunned down in the Columbine massacre.

"On Thursday, May 27, 1999, Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's sub-committee. What he said to our national leaders during this special session of Congress was painfully truthful.

It needs to be heard by every parent,  
every teacher, every politician, every sociologist,  
every psychologist, and every so-called expert!  
These courageous words spoken by Darrell Scott are powerful,  
penetrating, and deeply personal. There is no doubt that God  
sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness.

The following is a portion of the transcript:

Your laws ignore our deepest needs,  
Your words are empty air,  
You've stripped away our heritage,  
You've outlawed simple prayer.  
Now gunshots fill our classrooms,  
And precious children die,  
You seek for answers everywhere,  
And ask the question "Why?"  
You regulate restrictive laws,  
Through legislative creed,  
And yet you fail to understand,  
That God is what we need!"

Now when you get to verse 2 –  
verses 2, 3, 4, and 5  
give you the 19 things.

v. 2 *"For men will be fond of themselves (selfish), lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy."*

The word "*FOR*" begins verse 2 and Paul now expresses the REASON for why "*the last days*" will be "*hard times*."

There are **NINETEEN REASONS** spelled out in verses 2-5.

**THIS IS WHAT LIFE IN SATAN'S TRAPS LOOKS LIKE!**

There are **EIGHT REASONS** of the nineteen spelled out here in verse 2.

**CHARACTERISTIC #1:**

**"MEN WILL BE FOND OF THEMSELVES (SELFISH)."**

2 Corinthians 5:15

*"and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."*

**SELF** is in the place, where **GOD** belongs!

**"I LOVE ME, I LOVE MYSELF.  
I SET MY PICTURE ON THE SHELF!"**

**ALL SIN BEGINS IN SELFISHNESS.**

John the Baptist says it well in:

John 3:30 (DAV)

*"He [that is, Jesus Christ] must continually be increasing, and I must continually be decreasing."*

**CHARACTERISTIC #2:**

**"LOVERS OF MONEY."**

How often do we hear the phrase:  
**ME AND MY MONEY?**

**JUDAS** is a good illustration of a person who **PREFERRED MONEY TO THE MASTER.**

He had every opportunity to be close to Christ and to hear the same message that the other disciples heard but his fondness for money kept him from becoming all the Lord wanted him to become.

It ultimately led to his destruction.

**Matthew 6:24**

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*

**Luke 12:19-20**

*And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.” But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’”*

**CHARACTERISTIC #3:**

**“BOASTERS.”**

This word refers to a man who makes a claim to good things or qualities which he does not really possess.

Either that, or to qualities which he possesses in a lesser degree than he gives the impression.



The **FOCUS** being on **SELF** and the **BOTTOM LINE**, naturally causes a person to say to the world:

**“HEY LOOK WHAT I HAVE DONE!”**

The man who has to crow about his achievements often is doing this simply because he has not really achieved very much or else it would be already known.

**CHARACTERISTIC #4:**

**“ARROGANT.”**

This is a word that is always used as the **OPPOSITE** of the word **HUMBLE**.

This is the person that God resists.

This is the sin of Satan.

Thus far in verse 2 we have learned about **FOUR THINGS**. They are:

1. **“FOND OF THEMSELVES (SELFISH),”**
2. **“LOVERS OF MONEY,”**
3. **“BOASTERS,”** and
4. **“ARROGANT.”**

This brings us now to the next characteristic.

**CHARACTERISTIC #5:**

**“SLANDERERS.”**

**TO SLANDER SOMEBODY IS TO ABUSE THEM.**

Abusive behavior always begins with the words from the tongue

and then moves to the action of the hand.

So verbal becomes physical.

Or selfishness becomes sexual when it comes to abusive behavior.

**VERBAL**

**PHYSICAL** and may become

**SEXUAL.**

You see this in:

**WIFE ABUSE** and

**CHILD ABUSE.**

This word used by Paul here refers to:

**EVIL SPEAKINGS AGAINST ONES FELLOW MAN.**

Because a man is “**ARROGANT**” and a “**BOASTERS**”, he will naturally become abusive in his relationship to his fellows by insulting criticism.

Now I know all of you wish your kids were here for this next one.

**CHARACTERISTIC #6:**

**“DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS.”**

A study of the Scriptures makes it quite clear that the **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY** for children

is that of OBEDIENCE.

The Scripture says:

**OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE.**

It is a horrible thing to see children disrespectful of adults that have given them life and all the privileges they have to that point.

Ephesians 6:1-3

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.”*

**CHARACTERISTIC #7:**

**“UNGRATEFUL.”**

It could be translated UNTHANKFUL.

A person who is “unthankful” is a person who is PROUD.

When man refuses to recognize that he has a DEBT BOTH TO GOD AND TO MAN, he then becomes THANKLESS.

**CHARACTERISTIC #8:**

**“UNHOLY.”**

This sort of a person is:

**A PERSON CONTROLLED BY HIS LOWER PASSIONS.**

It is the description of a person who has forgotten what it is to be decent.

Romans 13:13-14

*“Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”*

Whereas, we had EIGHT of these NINETEEN CHARACTERISTICS in verse 2, we now have SIX MORE in verse 3.

v. 3 *“Without natural affection, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, not loving the good.”*

**CHARACTERISTIC #9:**

**“WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION.”**

In this ninth characteristic “WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION,” Paul is referring here to a love which is natural in a family relationship—the love of a child for a parent or parent for the child.

When this type of love is absent, of course, we have a **BREAKDOWN IN THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP.**

A man loving himself will naturally find that his love and affection for others will in like measure be decreasing.

When you have a situation where everyone is looking out for number one, you are going to have chaos.

**IT IS RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY.**

**CHARACTERISTIC #10:**

**“IRRECONCILABLE.”**

This word has the picture of one who is so filled with BITTERNESS that he is unwilling to get along with others.

Actually, they can't get along with anybody!

**THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T FORGIVE.**

When we are tempted to be like this, we should hear again the voice of our blessed Lord saying, even on the cross:

*“Father forgive them!”*

Ephesians 4:32

*“And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”*

We come now in our study, to the next characteristics, of these FALSE TEACHERS.

**CHARACTERISTIC #11:  
“MALICIOUS GOSSIPS.”**

This Greek word is *diabolos*, the same Greek word that is used for DEVIL.

He of course, is the greatest slanderer of all.

Taking away a man's character and reputation by slanderous words and evil reports is one of the greatest of sins.

**CHARACTERISTIC #12:**

**“WITHOUT SELF-CONTROL.”**

There are all kinds of **ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS** that are among us these days:

**DRUGS,**

**ALCOHOL,**

**SMOKING,**

**SEX,**

**PORNOGRAPHY, and  
THE LIST GOES ON!**

In this situation, **BAD HABITS** have taken control and the man is yielding to these rather than having the mastery over them.

1 Corinthians 9:27

*“No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”*

**CHARACTERISTIC #13:**

**“BRUTAL”**

This is **THIRTEEN** in this series of nineteen.

There are some who would translate the word **“BRUTAL”** to **SAVAGE**.

When you see all the

**VIOLENCE,**

**MURDERS,**

**ABORTIONS,**

**ABUSES,**

**ROAD RAGE, and**

**A MYRIAD OF OTHER ACTS, you realize we are living in dangerous and brutal times.**

**CHARACTERISTIC #14:**

**“NOT LOVING THE GOOD.”**

**John 3:19-20**

*“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed..”*

**Because of all these other characteristics, he is a person who has no association with that which is:**

**GOOD,**

**EDIFYING, and**

**PROPER.**

His appetites have been fixed upon that which is sensuous and self-gratifying.

Verse 4

v. 4 *“Traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”*

There are **FOUR MORE CHARACTERISTICS** of the **FALSE TEACHERS** here in verse 4.

**CHARACTERISTIC #15:**

**“TRAITORS.”**

**LOYALTY** and **DEVOTION** are absent from their vocabulary.

**JUDAS** was a traitor to Jesus when he made the choice to take the thirty pieces of silver.

In 2 Timothy 4:10 **DEMAS** was seen as a traitor because he deserted the apostle Paul for love of the present world.

Paul speaks in:

2 Timothy 1: 15

*“all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.”*

**CHARACTERISTIC #16:**

**“RECKLESS.”**



## CHARACTERISTIC #17:

**“CONCEITED.”**

This word could be better expressed in the phrase:

**“HE SURE HAS A THE BIG HEAD!”**

Philippians 2:3-4

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

## CHARACTERISTIC #18:

**“LOVERS OF PLEASURE RATHER THAN LOVERS OF GOD.”**

**“PLEASURE”** has taken the place that belongs only to God.

1. **seeking of pleasure:** a devotion, especially a self-indulgent one, to pleasure and happiness as a way of life
2. **PHILOSOPHY of pleasure:** a philosophical doctrine that holds that pleasure is the highest good or the source of moral values

From the Greek language *he-don* “pleasure.”

—he•don•ist, *noun*

—he•don•is•tic . . . *adjective*

Listen to this excerpt from a sad letter that Rachel Scott wrote to a friend exactly one year before she died for her faith at Columbine.

April 20, 1998

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

It's like I have a heavy heart and this burden upon my back, but I don't know what it is. There is something in me that makes me want to cry . . . and I don't even know what it is. Things have definitely changed.

Last week was so hard. Besides missing Breakthru, I lost all of my friends at school.

Now that I have begun to walk my talk, they make fun of me. I don't even know what I have done. I don't really have to say anything and they turn me away. . . . I know what they're thinking every time I make a decision to resist temptation and follow God. They talk behind my back and call me "the preacher's church-going girl." In the last 6 months my friends have changed. They think I am such a loser, and that God is just a phase for me. I have no more personal friends at school. But you know what . . . it's all worth it to me.

I am not going to apologize for speaking the Name of Jesus, . . . and I am not going to hide the light that God has put into me.

If I have to sacrifice everything . . . I will. I will take it. If my friends have to become my enemies for me to be with my best

friend, Jesus, then that's fine with me. You know, I always knew that part of being a Christian was having enemies . . . but I never thought that my "friends" were going to be those enemies. . . .

Always in Christ,  
Rachel Joy  
(Columbine Courage: Rock-Solid Faith by Ron Luce) Nashville, TN: J. Countryman. Copyright – Ron Luce, 2000.

What a prophetic statement written by a 17-year-old young lady who is getting ready to lay down her life.

Verse 5

*v. 5 "While having an outward form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and turn away from such men as these."*

This is our **KEY VERSE** for Step #8  
For a Fantastic Finish: Counter Culture: Lord,  
Where You Lead Me I Will Follow.

We also find in this fifth verse the **NINETEENTH** and **FINAL CHARACTERISTIC** of these **FALSE TEACHERS**.

**CHARACTERISTIC #19:**

**"WHILE HAVING AN OUTWARD FORM OF GODLINESS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE DENIED ITS POWER."**

They are the ones that go through all the motions of:

**RITUAL AND RELIGION WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP.**

**They are strangers to the power that changes lives.**

**Paul commands Timothy to:**

**“TURN AWAY FROM SUCH MEN AS THESE.”**

**Bob Briner said in his book,**

**“Rarely, if ever, in the annals of human history have so many with so much to give to their society actually given so little and done it so maladroitly as have American Christians over the past fifty years.”**

**Now, that is your list.**

**That describes the culture that you stand against.**

**Now Verse 6:**

***v. 6 “For of these are those who are worming their way into houses and captivating silly women having been overwhelmed by their sins, who are being led on by various desires.”***

**Now we have a STATEMENT for the REASON why Paul gave Timothy the command at the end of verse 5:**

**“turn away from such men as these.” FALSE TEACHERS**

**The REASON:**

**“FOR OF THESE ARE THOSE WHO ARE WORMING.”**

**That is, they are the CREEPERS!**

**They are following their master Satan’s modus operandi as he slithered into the garden in Genesis 3.**

**They are DOMINATED BY DESIRES.**

**They are LED BY LUST.**

**“FOR OF THESE ARE THOSE WHO ARE WORMING THEIR WAY INTO HOUSES AND CAPTIVATING SILLY WOMEN.”**

**They are SETTING TRAPS just like Satan has set traps back in chapter 2.**

**The word “SILLY” here could be translated:**

**UNSTABLE or**

**NEEDY WOMEN.**

**They are women who had:**

**1. “BEEN OVERWHELMED BY THEIR SINS.”**

**There has been a PILING UP OF SINS, a great many sins.**

**THEY ARE VERY GUILTY.**

**They have “BEEN OVERWHELMED BY THEIR SINS.” The burden of their sin on their conscience has caused this.**

**They are women who want the NEW LOOK.**

**They are being led on by various desires for new things.**

**How are they characterized in verse 7?**

***v. 7 “Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”***

Since they are endeavoring to find the answers to life apart from Jesus Christ, they are on a **FUTILE JOURNEY.**

*“Always learning and never coming to a knowledge of the truth”* because Jesus Christ has said Himself:  
*“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”*

Tony Evans says it well. “In case I haven’t made it clear yet, let me say it right here:

The future of American culture is squarely in the hands of Christians. Our problem is not so much the presence of unrighteousness as it is the loss of God’s glory.

Unrighteousness and evil have dominated our culture because God’s glory has departed, and that departure is primarily the result of the removal of Christ’s lampstand from the church (Revelation 2:5).”

“Make no mistake about it.

America’s future is not in the hands of the politicians or the social scientists. Most don’t know what to do.

They are *“always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (2 Timothy 3:7).”

“The reason the future of our culture is in the hands of Christians is that the cause of our cultural demise is spiritual. And if a problem is spiritual, its cure must be spiritual.”

Recognize that in the tragic circumstances that have just happened to us and realize that we all have a part to play.

And we come to verse 8.

*v. 8 “Now in the same manner as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also are these opposing the truth, men depraved in mind, disqualified concerning the faith.”*

The apostle now turns to an **ILLUSTRATION** to describe what he means by the **ACTIVITY OF THESE FALSE TEACHERS.**

“**JANNES AND JAMBRES**” were the magicians who “**OPPOSED MOSES**” when he went on his mission that the Lord had sent him on to bring the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt.

You will remember that the unnamed **MAGICIANS WERE ABLE TO DUPLICATE** the:

making of the **SNAKES**  
(but Moses’ snake swallowed theirs up),

**WATER TURNING TO BLOOD, and**

**PLAGUE OF THE FROGS.**

Things, however, changed.

At plague number three out of the ten plagues, they were unable to do so.

When the **GNATS** were plaguing them, their statement was: “This is the finger of God!”

They were not able to duplicate the:

**GNATS,**

**FLIES,**

**LIVESTOCK,**

**BOILS,**

**HAIL STORM,**

**LOCUSTS, or**

**DARKNESS.**

Most of all, they were affected,  
I'm sure, by the tenth plague:

**THE DEATH OF THE FIRST-BORN.**

What Paul means here is that they might start out like a house of fire and duplicate some of these things initially. Eventually it is all going to fall apart for them and their folly will become quite evident to all.

There are **THREE THINGS** said about  
“**JANNES AND JAMBRES**”:

1. “**OPPOSING THE TRUTH,**”
2. “**DEPRAVED IN MIND,**” and
3. “**DISQUALIFIED CONCERNING THE FAITH.**”

You could say of them, they were:  
**REBELLIOUS,**  
**ROTTEN,** and  
**RUINED.**

Verse 9



v. 9 *“But they will not make further progress, for their folly shall become quite evident to all, as also that of those two came to be.”*

The word “BUT” forms the CONTRAST:  
“THEY WILL NOT MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS.”

They will get stopped in their tracks  
and the REASON is stated with the word “FOR”:

“THEIR FOLLY SHALL BECOME QUITE EVIDENT TO ALL, AS ALSO THAT OF THOSE TWO CAME TO BE.”

Plague after plague took place and they were unable to duplicate them in any way.

The snakes, the blood, and the frogs were about it! After that, the other eight plagues put them on the sideline.

Well, you have been through the passage with me.

What do you think?

Where do you stand in relationship to the culture?

Are you a conformist?

Or are you with the Counter Culture?

There are your choices.

Have you heard that John Wayne story or received it on your e-mail?

Most of you know John Wayne as an actor. You may not know what happened to him before he died. This is that story!

Robert Schuller's teenage daughter, Cindy, was in a motorcycle accident and had to have her leg amputated. John Wayne was a big fan of Robert Schuller.

He heard Dr. Schuller say on one of his programs that his daughter had been in an accident and had to have her leg amputated. John Wayne wrote a note to her saying:

Dear Cindy, sorry to hear about your accident. Hope you will be all right. Signed, John Wayne.

The note was delivered to her and she decided she wanted to write John Wayne a note in reply. She wrote:

Dear Mr. Wayne, I got your note. Thanks for writing to me. I like you very much. I am going to be all right because Jesus is going to help me. Mr. Wayne, do you know Jesus? I sure hope you know Jesus, Mr. Wayne, because I cannot imagine Heaven being complete without John Wayne being there. I hope, if you don't know Jesus, that you will give your heart to Jesus right now. See you in Heaven. And she signed her name.

She had just put that letter in an envelope, sealed it, and written across the front of it "John Wayne"

when a visitor came into her room to see her.

He said to her: What are you doing? She said: I just wrote a letter to John Wayne, but I don't know how to get it to him.

He said: That's funny,

I am going to have dinner with John Wayne tonight at the Newport Club down at Newport Beach.

Give it to me and I will give it to him.

She gave him the letter and he put it in his coat pocket.

There were twelve of them that night sitting around the table for dinner.

They were laughing and cutting up and the guy happened to reach in his pocket and felt that letter

and remembered. John Wayne was seated at the end of the table and the guy took the letter out and said:

Hey, Duke, I was in Schuller's daughter's room today and she wrote you a letter and wanted me to give it

to you. Here it is. They passed it down to John Wayne and he opened it. They kept laughing and cutting up and someone

happened to look down at John Wayne. He was crying.

One of them said: Hey, Duke, what is the matter?

He said (and can't you hear him saying it),

"I want to read you this letter." He read the letter. Then he began to weep. He folded it, put it in his pocket, and he pointed to the man who delivered it to him and said:

"You go tell that little girl that right now, in this restaurant, right here, John Wayne gives his heart to Jesus Christ and I will see her in heaven."

Three weeks later, John Wayne died.

**You never know how your witness to another will effect their eternity!**

**The choice is yours and the power of the gospel is just as real.**

**What are you going to do with the fact that you live in an ever-increasing evil society and it has the upper hand? Do not get discouraged.**

**Be a person who is counter cultural.**

**Can you take Step #8 to a Fantastic Finish and become a Counter Culture that is saying:**

**“Lord, Where You Lead Me I Will Follow.”**

**Now there are 12 lessons that come out of this**

### **LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

**LESSON #1: Be constantly keeping this in mind, “that in the last days [cruel and] hard times will set in” (verse 1).**

**LESSON #2:** The “last days” refers to any time from the resurrection of Jesus Christ to His coming again to take us to be with Himself.

**LESSON #3:** There are nineteen characteristics of those who chose to live life in Satan’s traps (see verses 2-5).

**LESSON #4:** Love of self and love of “money” are the roots of many of these other ugly characteristics of those who are living a false profession (verse 2).

**LESSON #5:** They are “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (verse 4).

**LESSON #6:** They have an “outward form of godliness, although they have denied its power” (verse 5).

**LESSON #7:** Paul commands Timothy to “turn away from such men as these” (verse 5).

**LESSON #8:** They are “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (verse 7).

**LESSON #9:** Are you on track spiritually?

**LESSON #10:** Are you growing and changing?

**LESSON #11:** Are you experiencing His power?

**LESSON #12:** Do you have a hunger for the Word?

**STUDIES IN THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO  
TIMOTHY**

**“The Twelve Steps to a Fantastic Finish”**

**Key verse 2:15** — *“Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”*

**STEP NUMBER Eight – Counter Culture: Lord, Where You Lead  
Me I Will Follow**

**2 Timothy 3:1-9**

**Key verse 3:5**

**Notes**

**v. 1** But be knowing this, that in the last days hard times will set in.

**v. 2** For men will be fond of themselves (selfish), lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy.

**v. 3** Without natural affection, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, not loving the good.

**v. 4** Traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

**v. 5** While having an outward form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and turn away from such men as these.

**v. 6** For of these are those who are worming their way into houses and captivating silly women having been overwhelmed by their sins, who are being led on by various desires.

**v. 7** Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**v. 8** Now in the same manner as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also are these opposing the truth, Men depraved in mind, disqualified concerning the faith.

**v. 9** But they will not make further progress, for their folly shall become quite evident to all, as also that of those two came to be.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read **2 Timothy 3:1-9** and summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in this section.
2. What does Paul say about the “last days” in **verse 1**?

3. Make a list of the nineteen characteristics of the “last days” recorded in verses 2-5.
4. Describe what you think Paul means in verse 4 by the phrase: “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”
5. What do you think Paul means by the phrase: “having an outward form of godliness, although they have denied its power,” in verse 5?
6. What does Paul mean by the phrase: “Having been overwhelmed by their sins,” in verse 6?
7. What does Paul mean in verse 7 by the phrase: “learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”?
8. The men who are “opposing the truth” are described in three ways in verse 8, how are they described?
9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?