12/10/2023 AM

Introduction:

I. OBSERVE THE FRUIT (vs. 1-5)

    A. Prepare Yourself (vs. 1)

        "realize this"

        "in the last days"

        "difficult times will come"

    B. What You Should Look For (vs. 2-4)

        "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" -

            "treacherous" -

            "reckless" -

            "conceited" -

            "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" -

C. Have nothing to do with them! (vs. 5)

   "holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power"

   "Avoid such men as these."

II. IDENTIFY THE ROOT (vs. 6-7)

A. They are subtle. (vs. 6a)

   "for among them are those who enter into households"

B. They are seductive. (vs. 6b)

   "they captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses"

C. They are sly. (vs 7)

   "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"

III. BE PREPARED TO SHOOT (vs. 8-9)

A. Name Names (vs. 8a)

   "just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses"

B. Expose Error (vs. 8b)

   "these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith"

C. Trust the Truth (vs. 9)

   "they will not make further progress"

   "for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also"

Conclusion:

1) Being faithful to the truth of God's Word may actually make your life more difficult.

2) The Devil will use any and every trick in the book to trip you up and cause you to stumble.

3) Take great care that your godliness is genuine, not just a formality.

Food for Thought:
1) What do you find to be the best way(s) to handle difficult times?
2) How does genuine faith include both a clear view of reality and an optimistic hope?
3) To which of the sins listed in vs. 2-5 do you find yourself most vulnerable?
4) How do we guarantee that we will come to a knowledge of the truth (not "ever learning but never able to come
      to a knowledge of the truth")?