

FEB 12

“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.” 2 Timothy 3:2-4 NLT

[lectio] // 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

Wow, where to start? First, Paul says last days, but these traits are in all of humanity throughout history. The first sentence grabbed me, “they will love themselves and money.” The most dangerous of mixed drinks (ideals) that ever plagued us, selfish & sustainable! Selfish & poor just leads to draining family & friends. Generous & wealthy tends to cancel out most of their evil deeds (think Bill Gates), fairly harmless. But combined concoction of self & wealth? DISASTER (think Kim Jong-un). Then there is an “activism” element about them, they are proud, loud, disrespectful of God & disobedient to parents — like they are on a personal revolution to shape the entire world to fit their liking, their needs. What does Paul mean when he writes, “consider nothing sacred?” What does “sacred” mean to Paul and to the culture at that time? If it is anywhere near the concept of “no truth” or “my truth” it would be consistent across human history. If “sacred” means that truth is not subjective, and that there is no such a thing as “absolute truth,” then our world, our culture has lost the sacred. If “nothing sacred” means they are above it all (law, truth, mores) then their pride and arrogance goes unchecked. Maybe all of the core concepts, Paul describes, points to the symptoms. He lists: unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, no self-control, cruel, hateful, betrayers, reckless, prideful, and absorbed with pleasure. Who wants to be that or have friends like that?

[oratio]

Dad,
I immediately see that without Christ these symptoms show up and reveal my heart as well. I don't display all the characteristics of the sustainably-selfish, but there is enough to see the shadows and feel the pull of darkness in my life. I cannot point fingers and say, “oh this wicked generation...” because I see those reflections in myself as well. I must constantly repent and submit to your truth and authority. So how can I be a healthy antibody in my diseased world? I should live by a list that reflects selflessness & generosity. I should foster quiet humility, respect and obedience, loving, forgiving, self-control, kindness, loyalty, intentionally thoughtful, truthful and absorbed with sacrifice. These are the anti-body qualities that will fight the cancerous structures in my culture. How can I submit these, offer these in my conversations and social media streams? I've always had a knack of working from within and being positively subversive and counteracting from the under-perspective of life. Can I be your anti-body agent of hope?

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root