

But realize this, that in the last days difficult [hard, perilous, terrifying, grievous, dangerous, terrible, distressing] times will come (2 Timothy 3:1).



What are the “last days”?

- Broad meaning: the time between the First & Second Comings of Jesus (aka “the Church Age”) = NOW!
- Narrow meaning: the time just before the Rapture (taking living & dead believers into Christ’s presence) and just before the Tribulation (7-year period of trouble when evil appears to be winning, but when Jesus returns at the end & wins)—at the end of the Church Age

What are the “last days”?

- The things that happened to those [Old Testament] people are examples. They were written down to teach us who live in the final days of this age [for whom the end / climax / culmination of the ages has come] (1 Corinthians 10:11, Expanded Bible).
- Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son (Hebrews 1:1–2a, Christian Standard Bible).

The Society of the Last Days (3:2-7)

- People will be narcissists (caring only about themselves—basis for the other sins that follow).
- materialistic
- braggarts (how they speak)
- arrogant (how they think)
- slanderous (abusive, evil speaking about others, *blasphēmoi*)
- disobedient to (not honoring) their parents
- ungrateful

The Society of the Last Days (3:2-7)

- unholy
- unloving (heartless, without natural affection)
- irreconcilable (unappeasable)
- slanderers (*diaboloι*, accusing falsely, malicious gossips)
- without self-control (easily led into sin, unrestrained)
- brutal (cruel, savage, fierce)
- hating good
- treacherous (traitors toward others)

The Society of the Last Days (3:2-7)

- reckless (rash)
- loving pleasure instead of God (self-centered, self-pleasing)
- appearing religious (form of godliness without godly power)
- prone to lead weak (or idle), sinful, pseudointellectual women astray (immoral & deceitful).
- 3.13—These evil people & imposters will go from bad to worse. They both deceive others and are deceived themselves.

How to Help Our Children

- Lead them to Jesus.
- Model the behavior you desire from them.
 - Express gratitude for what you have.
 - Practice self-control.
 - Show respect for authorities.
 - Honor your own parents.
 - Care about others.



How to Help Our Children

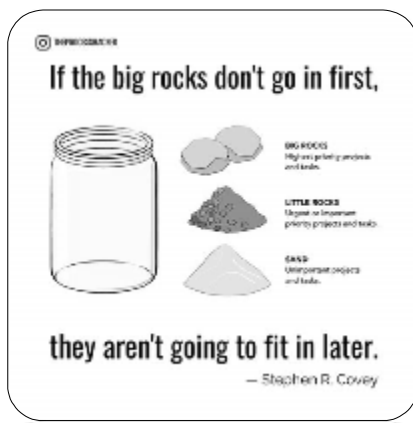
- Be a loving, but firm authority. Teach them . . .
 - They can't have everything they want.
 - They can work & save for special desires or projects.
 - They can be generous with their money, time, & actions.
 - By providing external control until they can develop internal control.
 - By gradually expanding their freedoms & letting them experience failure while helping them learn how to handle it.

How to Help Our Children

- Be a loving, but firm authority. Teach them . . .
 - To have good manners ("please," "thank you," holding a door, carrying groceries). Have children write thank you notes.
 - To keep a gratitude journal.
 - To obey immediately— with a good attitude.
 - That both good & bad behaviors have consequences.



How to Help Our Children

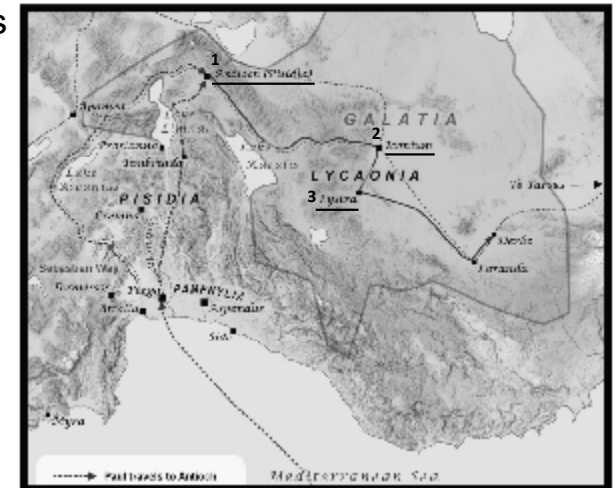


- Teach them to prioritize tasks & time. Take care of the big rocks first.
- Through it all, LOVE THEM (1 Peter 4:8).
- Keep lines of communication open.

Paul's Persecutions

1. Antioch
2. Iconium
3. Lystra

(2 Tim. 3:11)



ALL Scripture is

- inspired by God
- profitable for teaching
- profitable for rebuking
- profitable for correcting
- profitable for training in righteousness
- intended to make us capable & equipped for every good work

