Fierce Times Are Coming

Proclamation: Titus 2:11–14

I. “Perilous” = “Fierce” (2 Tim. 3:1–5; compare Matt. 8:28)
   A. Absolutely certain to come
   B. Three main factors:
      1. Basic cause: degeneration of human character—any attempted solution that bypasses this is ineffective
      2. Corruption is irreversible—both physical and spiritual, therefore:
         a. A new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)
         b. A new heaven and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:13)
         c. “I make all things new” (Rev. 21:5)
         d. Present social order doomed to perish under God’s judgment
      3. The root: Love of self
         Not resolved by “a form of godliness”
   C. Statistics about one day in America (U.S. News & World Report)
   D. But God . . .
      1. The Holy Spirit raises a standard (Is. 59:19[b])

II. How Should We Conduct Ourselves?
   A. Recognize that all these things confirm the reliability of Scripture
   B. Personally deal with the root of self-love
      1. This is “the power of godliness” (2 Tim. 3:5)
      3. Not loving our lives to the death (Rev. 12:11)
   C. Man’s extremity = God’s opportunity
      1. Tribulation pressures can turn many to God (Rev. 7:9–10, 13–14)
      3. All things shaken—but our kingdom cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:25–28)—but we must be delivered from self-love
      4. Ready to lose our life (Matt. 16:24–25)
      5. End time pressures—but Gospel to all nations (Matt. 24:8–14)
   D. Limitless opportunity to do good
      1. . . . See your good works—God’s concern for the fatherless (Matt. 5:16); e.g. by 2000 AD 10 million AIDS orphans in Africa
      2. Pure religion: care for orphans and widows (James 1:27)
         a. Carried over from Old Testament
         b. If every Christian family would adopt one parentless child . . . Don’t pour out on a pet love that should go to a child
         c. But two idols: Comfort and convenience
            “Do something somebody!”
      3. Are you willing to lose your life?
   E. God’s ultimate purpose
      1. His own special people (Tit. 2:11–14)
2. The Lord is willing to wait (2 Pet. 3:9)
3. *Find* and *do* God’s will (1 John 2:17)

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