I. Perilous Times (2 Tim. 3:1–5 [also Matt. 8:28]) “perilous” = fierce
   A. Root problem:
      1. Decline in human character
      2. Corruption progresses to total rottenness
   B. God’s answer: a new creation
   C. Main evil forces at work
      1. Self-love
      2. Love of money (1 Tim. 6:10)
      3. Love of pleasure
      4. All have a form of godliness = Christians, but deny the power of God; from such turn away

II. The Cross Is The Power Of God (1 Cor. 1:18)
   A. Follow Jesus (Matt. 16:24–25)
      1. Deny yourself = deal with your self-pleasing ego
      2. Take up cross
      3. You cannot follow Jesus without these two steps
   B. Be a disciple: Hate father and mother = hate anything that comes between yourself and being a disciple (Luke 14:25–27)

III. Features Of This Present Age (2 Tim. 3:8–9)
   A. Opposition from the occult—First three miracles of Moses and Aaron were duplicated by magicians—Satan can produce miracles
   B. Evil men and impostors (actually enchanters) (2 Tim. 3:13)

IV. What Is Our Response? (2 Tim. 3:14–17)
   A. The source of our victory: the Scripture = God’s truth put down in writing
   B. Preach the word!
      1. These signs will follow the preaching of the gospel (Mark 16:15–18)
      2. Preaching of the word will bring signs and wonders (Acts 4:29–30)
      3. Signs and wonders are God’s witness to the preached word (Acts 14:3)
      4. Signs, wonders, miracles and gifts (Heb. 2:2–4)
      5. Eyewitnesses and ministers (= servants) of the word (Luke 1:1–2). It is dangerous to seek signs and wonders apart from the Word of God.
   C. Be watchful in all things
   D. Endure afflictions
   E. Do the work of an evangelist
   F. Fulfill your ministry—whatever you’re called to do—do it, and do it with all your heart

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