



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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## TIMES ARE CHANGING



THIS PAST WEEKEND WE CHANGED OUR CLOCKS AND WENT OFF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME FOR THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS OR SO. LIKE IT OR NOT WE CHANGED TIME. BUT MOVING THE HANDS OF OUR CLOCKS IS NOT THE ONLY TIME CHANGE WE'VE EXPERIENCED, THE CULTURE AND GODLESSNESS AROUND US IS CHANGING EVER MORE RAPIDLY. WE MIGHT THINK THIS IS A MODERN PROBLEM, AND I DO NOT WISH TO MINIMIZE IT, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THINGS HAVE BEEN CHANGING FOR CENTURIES. NOTICE WITH ME JUST A FEW OF THE CHANGES PAUL NOTED WHEN WRITING II TIMOTHY.

CHRISTIANS HAVE CHANGED. THE APOSTLE IMPLIES THAT FEW WANT TO SUFFER FOR THE GOSPEL ANYMORE (1:8) AND ALSO INDICATES THAT SOME HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM OTHER CHRISTIANS (1:15). EVEN ONE, DEMAS, WHO HAD BEEN FAITHFUL HAD RECENTLY TURNED AWAY FROM THE LORD. (4:10). PAUL CALLS CHRISTIANS TO NOT BE TIMID (1:7), TO SUFFER HARDSHIP AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST (2:3) AND IS ENCOURAGED WHEN LUKE IS FAITHFUL RATHER THAN FAULTY (4:11).

MEN HAVE CHANGED. II TIMOTHY 3:1-5 INDICATES THAT THEY ARE LOVERS OF SELF AND MONEY, PROUD, REBELLIOUS AND SELFISH. THEY ARE MALICIOUS, UNDISCIPLINED, VIOLENT. THEY HATE GOOD AND LOVE PLEASURE. THEY HOLD TO RELIGION BUT NOT TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS. BELIEVERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO AVOID SUCH PEOPLE (3:5B).

EVIL HAS CHANGED. "BUT EVIL MEN AND IMPOSTERS WILL PROCEED FROM BAD TO WORSE, DECEIVING AND BEING DECEIVED" (3:13). JUST WHEN WE THINK THAT EVIL HAS DEMONSTRATED IT'S LOWEST DEGENERATION WE FIND OUT THERE IS A LOWER LEVEL, A BASEMENT BELOW THE BASEST ... AND IT'S EVEN BASER! IN THE MIDST OF SUCH DEFILEMENT, FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST ARE REMINDED TO CONTINUE IN THE THINGS THEY HAVE LEARNED (3:14).

PREACHING HAS CHANGED. PAUL PREDICTS THAT A TIME WILL COME WHEN PEOPLE "WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE." INSTEAD THEY WILL FIND SPEAKERS WHO MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD AND PLEASE THEM. IN DOING SO THEY TURN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH TO MYTHS. (4:3-4). EVEN SO, PASTOR TIMOTHY IS REMINDED TO PREACH THE WORD (4:2) RETAIN THE STANDARD OF SOUND WORDS (1:13) AND AVOID WORLDLY AND EMPTY CHATTER (2:16).

GOD HASN'T CHANGED. "NEVERTHELESS, THE FIRM FOUNDATION OF GOD STANDS, HAVING THIS SEAL, 'THE LORD KNOWS THOSE WHO ARE HIS,' AND, 'EVERYONE WHO NAMES THE NAME OF THE LORD IS TO ABSTAIN FROM WICKEDNESS.'" (II TIMOTHY 2:19).

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE