

# **The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

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**Sermon Notes Outline  
January 31, 2021**

**T I T L E: END TIMES AND PERILOUS TIMES: TWO SIDES OF THE  
SAME COIN**

**T E X T: 2 Timothy 3:1-15**

**NOTE:** "difficult" used only twice in New Testament. 2 Tim. 3:1 and Matt. 8:28

One commentator remarks:

"In both cases the situations are so bleak no one will want to experience them. Times will become so difficult and dangerous that people will simply hide, hoping things will get better on their own, since they are powerless to change the situations themselves."

Fortunately, the believer has the sustaining presence of God with him constantly.

## **I. GOSPEL ADVICE FOR PERILOUS TIMES DURING THE LAST DAYS**

**Matthew 24:42** -- "Therefore **be on the alert**, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

**Matthew 24:44** -- "For this reason you **be ready** too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

**Mark 13:21–23** -- **21** "And then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ'; or, 'Behold, He is there'; do not believe him; **22** for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order, if possible, to lead the elect astray. **23** "But **take heed**; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

**Mark 13:33** -- "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is.

**Mark 13:35** -- "Therefore, **be on the alert**— for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrowing, or in the morning—

**Luke 21:34–36** ---- **34** "Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; **35** for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. **36** "But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**John 14:1–3** ---- **1** "LET not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

**A. Do not become so involved in this life that you discount or neglect altogether the gospel admonition to be ready, be alert, therefore be spiritually sensitive to the signs of the times reminding us of His return at which time we will be delivered finally from the curse and bondage of our mortal lives. Paul said this mortal must put on immortality.**

(1 Cor. 15:53)

**"difficult"** — Life in this world can be extremely stressful and appear to be hopeless and without purpose.

**B. Recognize that life in this world has a spiritual dimension about it that cannot be neglected without negative consequences.**

**Matthew 4:4** ---- But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

**C. Hope in this world, especially during these perilous times, is inseparably connected to the world that is to come through the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13)**

**1 Peter 1:13** ---- Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

## **II. PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR CHRIST-LIKE LIVING DURING DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE LAST DAYS**

### **A. Pattern your life according to apostolic faithfulness and/or the heroes of the faith mentioned in Hebrews eleven.**

2 Timothy 3:10–12

**Susan Howlet Butcher** was an American dog musher, noteworthy as the second woman to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1986, the second four-time winner in 1990, and the first to win four out of five sequential years. She is commemorated in Alaska by the Susan Butcher Day.

At the end of one of the Iditarod races which she won she was asked, "How in the world did you stay at it?" She replied, "I just remembered that others have done it before me, and I could do it too. Because they did it, so can I."

### **B. Remain faithful to the word of God.**

2 Timothy 3:13–15

### **C. Be a conduit for the message of the Gospel.**

2 Timothy 4:2

## **D. Commend the gospel with your life as well as your lip.**

People will argue philosophy or theology with you, but it is exceedingly difficult for them to argue with you about an exemplary lifestyle.

2 Timothy 3:10; 2 Timothy 3:14; 2 Timothy 4:5

**Conclusion:** Let me leave you with a quote from R. C. Sproul ---

“The Bible speaks of our confidence in the future in terms of the idea of ‘hope.’ In biblical categories, hope does not indicate an unfulfilled wish that we have a desire to see come to pass. Instead, our hope is that which rests upon a certain conclusion in the future that God has promised for His people. Here hope is described by the metaphor of the anchor—the anchor of the soul (Heb. 6:13–20). An anchor is not something that is tenuous or ephemeral. It has weight, it has solidity, and it is that which gives security to a ship that is moored in open water. In like manner, we live our lives amid the waves that crash against us, but we are not tossed to and fro with no anchor. Our anchor is the promise of God for the future that He has laid up for His people.”