

2Timothy 3 -- Unveiling impostors

3 But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. It is very interesting to me that there appear to be two completely different narratives playing out on the internet. There are those who are compiling video footage of natural disasters, strange phenomena and economic indicators claiming these are grievous times, and then there are those who are telling us it was just like this in the 70s, nothing to see here. 2 For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; and yet Paul doesn't talk about disasters or signs in the heavens, he talks about how men will have become shameless. I am going to illustrate this using Trump to illustrate how we know that these are grievous times. Therefore, to avoid the appearance of favoring one candidate over the other I feel I do need to say something about Clinton and Biden first. My point has nothing to do with who to vote for, I see no hope for any government other than Jesus. Instead I see this as evidence that we are in the grievous times of the last days. In the 2016 election we knew that as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had violated laws when she set up her own server for her emails. As Secretary of State those emails were often referencing State secrets. If anyone working for the State department had done this they would have been fired and prosecuted for a felony. So to commit this crime and then ask us to vote for her as though it was a simple mistake, that was an outrageous insult. There is an involved process people go through to get security clearance and they are fully educated on how serious it is to violate it. The idea that she didn't know that she was violating that was insulting. After Trump was elected they went through years of investigations to see if he had colluded with Russia. During this time it was confirmed that Russia had indeed interfered with the election and had also hacked the DNC's server. These facts condemn Hillary even more, it is as though they were pointing one finger at Trump and three fingers were pointing at them. She had to know that there were Russian and Chinese hackers working for those countries to hack into multinational corporate servers. As Secretary of State she was privy to the up to date intelligence on these hackers. How is a government employee going to afford to keep their server secure from them

when fortune 500 companies can't keep their servers secure? As for Biden Kamala Harris said during the campaign that she believed the women who alleged sexual misconduct by Biden. If that is true then how is it a few months later she is willing to run on the same ticket with him? The point I am going to make is not how bad Trump is but how grievous the times have become. **Lover of self** — During the pandemic over 150,000 Americans have died, many more have become extremely sick. People have lost their jobs, and may lose their homes. Yet Trump complains about what the pandemic is doing to him, that this was some evil plot to keep him from being reelected. **Covetous** — "The beauty of me is that I'm very rich." Donald Trump. **Boastful** — "I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created." Donald Trump **haughty** "My Twitter has become so powerful that I can actually make my enemies tell the truth." Donald Trump. **railers** "Ariana Huffington is unattractive both inside and out. I fully understand why her former husband left her for a man — he made a good decision." Donald Trump. **disobedient to parents** Trump encouraged Americans to disobey governors orders concerning social distancing, masks, and the shut down of business. **unthankful** On Thanksgiving Trump was asked what he was most thankful for and he said he was most thankful for himself. **unholy**, "I've said if Ivanka weren't my daughter, perhaps I'd be dating her." Donald Trump. **without natural affection** "What is it at 35? It's called check-out time." — Trump on relationships with women. **implacable** Obama once made a joke about Trump, since that time he has been implacable concerning Obama. **slanders** "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best. They're not sending you, they're sending people that have lots of problems and they're bringing those problems. They're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime. They're rapists and some, I assume, are good people, but I speak to border guards and they're telling us what we're getting." Donald Trump. **without self-control**, "I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything." Donald Trump **fierce** "You have to dominate," he said. "If you don't dominate, you're wasting your time." concerning the police response to protesters. Trump has been fierce in his response to protesters while disregarding mayors and governors who wanted to be empathetic. **no lovers of good** "Before a show, I'll go backstage and everyone's getting dressed, and everything else, and you know, no men are anywhere, and I'm allowed to go in because I'm the owner of the pageant and therefore I'm inspecting it...You know, they're standing there with no clothes. And you see these incredible looking women,

and so, I sort of get away with things like that." Donald Trump talking about beauty pageants that he runs. [traitors](#) — Trump has publicly ridiculed the claim by the FBI that Russia interfered with the election, putting his support behind Putin. [headstrong](#) Trump said that Coronavirus would go away. In January he said "we have it totally under control" and in February he said "we pretty much shut it down" and that the number of cases were "going down, not up". He was asked about that in an interview March 31st with CNN and He continued to argue that this was true. [puffed up](#), "Our country is in serious trouble. We don't have any victories anymore. We used to have victories, but we don't have them. When was the last time anybody saw us beating, let's say China, in a trade deal? I beat China all the time. All the time." Donald Trump. [lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God](#) "All of the women on The Apprentice flirted with me--consciously or unconsciously. That's to be expected." Donald Trump. This is not the case of a single man being evil and corrupt. There are shock jocks on the radio who are equally contemptible. Why are they popular, that is the real question? This is how we know that these are grievous times. [5 holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof: from these also turn away.](#) There are people who are very successful at having great ratings on their TV shows or radio shows, or even in getting elected to office. They have certain skills. But there is nothing sanctified or holy about them. Turn away from them. [6 For of these are they that creep into houses, and take captive silly women laden with sins, led away by divers lusts, 7 ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.](#) They will not help you come to the truth. Your lusts are not truth. Embracing sin does not release you from the guilt of sin. You can learn a thousand things and never come to the knowledge of the truth. Jesus is God incarnate, full of grace and truth. Come to Jesus and you will come to the knowledge of the truth. [8 And even as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also withstand the truth; men corrupted in mind, reprobate concerning the faith.](#) Donald Trump and Howard Stern are like Jannes and Jambres, the two magicians that withstood Moses when God sent him to Pharaoh saying "let my people go". [9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be evident unto all men, as theirs also came to be. 10 But thou didst follow my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, 11 persecutions, sufferings; what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: and out of them all the Lord delivered me.](#) Nothing is more repulsive than someone who presents the teachings of the apostles but doesn't follow their conduct. People feel more betrayed by them. In a

sense Trump and Stern are like a reaction to that, they feel they are more honorable because they are fully transparent about being contemptible. On the other hand when we find someone who is a man of purpose, faith, longsuffering, patience, persecutions, and sufferings. Then we want to learn about their conduct and their teaching. The documentary "The Last Dance" did a wonderful job of presenting Michael Jordan as a man of purpose, faith, longsuffering, patience, persecutions and sufferings. As a result many are learning from his conduct. How he trained, what his mindset was. They are now following his teaching. **12 Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.** You need to set your mind to live godly. Once you do you will suffer persecution because your life is a testimony against those who would live a sinful life. It is shining a light, exposing their darkness, and it is salt, killing the germs. **13 But evil men and impostors shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.** The false prophet is an evil man and an impostor. We have had many false prophets like Judas and Balaam. But they will get worse and worse. I like this verse "deceiving and being deceived". They are so good at deceiving others they wind up deceiving themselves as well. The basic teaching is that men do not get cast into the Lake of Fire until the Great White Throne judgement. And yet, in the book of Revelation it appears that the false prophet is already in the Lake of Fire prior to the Great White Throne judgement. The only way I can explain that is that the false prophet deceived himself. When the believers were brought before the Judgement Seat of Christ to be judged he must have felt that Jesus had made a mistake and that he should be included with them. The Lord accommodated him and at that point sent him to the Lake of Fire. They deceive themselves into thinking they are actually believers. **14 But abide thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 and that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: 17 that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.**