

## **The Believer in this World**

### *Perilous times*

#### **I. Introduction**

1. We are not part of the world system (Jn. 15:18-19).
2. We are not told to try and reform the world, but we are to be separate from it.

#### **II. The role of believers in a “perverse nation” (Phil. 2:15-16).**

1. Maintain a Christian lifestyle.
  - 1) Blameless.
  - 2) Pure-unmixed.
  - 3) Without spot.
2. In contrast to a crooked and distorted generation.
3. The believer is to spiritually shine as a light.
4. Holding fast the principle of life (Jn. 17:3).
5. A luminary based on seeing Christ in the future.

#### **III. We are not to attempt to change the world to our liking.**

1. Do not strive to ‘feel comfortable’ in this world by making it conform to our principles.
2. This is one of the failures at Pergamos (Rev. 2:13).
3. Our politics are in heavens (Phil. 3:20).
4. Our present based on the future at His coming for the Church (Phil. 3:21).

#### **IV. The warning of perilous times (2 Tim. 3:1-9; 4:3-4).**

In the Church (2:17-18; 3:5, 7).

<b>KJV translation</b> (2 Timothy 3:2-4)	<b>Meaning</b>	Verse
Men lovers of selves	Fond of themselves	2
Covetous	Fond of money	2
Boasters	Braggarts	2
Proud	Arrogant	2
Blasphemers	Slander true regarding God	2
Disobedience to parents		2

Unthankful	<i>cf.</i> Col. 2:7	2
Unholy	Not set apart to God	2
Without natural affection	Without family affection, contrary to nature's order	3
Trucebreakers	Without truth and hostile to truth	3
False accusers	Promote quarrels	3
Incontinent	Lack self-control, emotionally	3
Fierce	Untamed, wild towards opposition	3
Despisers of good	Not fond of the + principles that are good	3
Traitors	Betrayers of the faith	4
Heady	Reckless	4
Highminded	Puffed up, like smoke, think they are right and revel in it	4
Lovers of pleasure	Fond of sensual gratification	4

- V.** The threat comes from within the Church (Acts 20:28-31).
1. Wolves shall enter in among you.
  2. Men who are inside arise.