Lovers of Self

Brent Moody · 2 Timothy 3:1–5

INTRODUCTION

- We live in the most individualistic society that has ever existed, where everything seems to be about self and what I'm doing and what I want.
- In the last days, there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self.
- It is pride, but it's mixed with a healthy dose of insecurity, the needing of affirmation of people around them to validate who they are.

1 Self-Centered: Everything Is About Me

Romans 1:21; Romans 1:28; Ephesians 6:1

- A lover of self really begins with this idea that everything is about me. It's very self-centered.
- They did not honor him as God or give thanks to him.
- The problem in the very beginning, the source, the impetus of everything that comes after is really the lack of gratitude.
- When we fail to appreciate the glory and the majesty of God and who he is, it is inevitable that we will then elevate ourselves.

2 Self-Seeking: Worshiping the Creation Rather Than the Creator

Romans 1:23; Romans 1:25

- It's more about this worship of self. It's about the idea of personal enlightenment.
- They exchange the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the creator.
- When we're self-centered and we're self-seeking, our minds become so warped and our hearts become so darkened that we start worshiping the world.
- You're not going to find salvation through saving the world.

3 Self-Indulgence: The Last Thing on the Path

Romans 1:24; Genesis 3:6

- The ingratitude, the futile thinking, then the darkened hearts, then worshiping creation, and then the indulgence of desire. That's the last thing on the path.
- That is really just the symptom. That's the symptom of everything else we've been talking about.
- Eve saw that the tree was good to eat. And it was a delight to the eyes. And it was desirable to make one wise.
- And then the very last thing she took and she ate. That's where the self-indulgence comes in.

4 Reverse the Process: God Centered, Truth Seeking, Self-Controlled

2 Timothy 3:4

- If we want to reverse this whole process, what we have to do is this very thing. Be God centered.
- We need to be the kind of people who, rather than our seeking self, are seeking truth. Rather than guided by our own self-will, we are truth guided.
- Self-control is actually admitting just the opposite. It says the Lord rules.
- And although I'm tempted here, I have to do my very best to begin bringing my will to His.

5 Express Gratitude Daily

- We should be expressing gratitude daily. Just make it a part of every single day.
- It's the returning of grace to God. It is living our life in response.
- Walk worthily of the one who has called you, giving thanks. That's the idea. We live each day thankful.

6 Avoid Such People and Find Wisdom in Scripture

2 Timothy 3:5; 2 Timothy 3:15

- He says, avoid such people. It's a command.
- We become like the people we spend our time around.
- Rather than gathering our wisdom from ourselves and from the people around us, we've got to learn to stay in the word of God, which makes you wise for salvation.
- That's where true wisdom comes from.

THE CHALLENGE

Will you give your life to Jesus Christ? Tell him you will surrender everything. It's all about Him and about His will. Will you do that this morning?

MY NOTES