

2 Timothy III. 7_

The human family may very properly be divided into three great classes. The first class may be considered decidedly wicked, ungodly & profane_ They live to gratify the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life_ and they are travelling the broad road which will be certain to lead them to destruction. The second class, will embrace God's true and faithful people ^of every name who have taken the Bible for their guide, and are striving by faith and humble prayer to lay up their treasure in heaven. But there is another very large class ^yet remaining ~~among the people~~, made up of luke-warm worldly minded professors of religion_ Some of them have gotten into the church without repentance, without conversion, & without reformation. Some who were once renewed in the spirit of their minds, have lost their first love, and have gone back to the sinful pleasures of the world.

Many of this class, go to church take the sacrament, hear sermon's say prayers & sing hymns, but these things are performed in such a perfunctory manner, that they are not attended with any spiritual improvement at all. They don't grow in grace, they are full of pride and vanity they are backsliders in heart and filled up with their own ways. This class of persons are forever learning & never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

I wish to call your attention; to the class of persons mentioned in the text_ they were ever learning-&2, to the fact asserted in regard to them. They were never able to come to the knowledge of the truth

In this second epistle, in the beginning of this chapter, St. Paul admonishes Timothy against the corruptions and apostasies that would spring up in the church when corrupt man wd. make gain of godliness, & borrow the livery of heaven to practice the works of the devil. In the last days, says the Apostle, perilous times shall come_ "For man shall be lovers of their own selves" &c And this class of man, will be in the church having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof_ They keep up a few form and know of religious ceremonies, but they are destitute of the life & power of godliness.

And when we look around us, see the corruptions of the church, we may safely conclude, that perilous times are upon us. Corrupt men are deceiving themselves and their example are deceiving others. And yet they are patronizing the church_ __ But they don't show any improvement__

And what can be the ~~th~~ reason of this coldness and deadness in the church__

1. They have never been made alive to the importance of spiritual & eternal things_
- ~~2. They are~~ Many have crept in the church without a change of heart or life.
3. Many have lost their religious enjoyment, & have sunk down at ease in Zion_
4. And they are in danger of dying, in a state of carnal security.

If you wd. profit by the preaching of the word_ you should meditate upon what you hear. Try to reduce it to practice_ Attend to the duties of religion at home, and then you will grow in grace. And (upon?) for the heavenly garner__

