

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, ^{genuinely} 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 sermons, ^{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 schismatical tendencies that would spring up in the church

When Corrupt men, w^d make gain
of sodliness, & borrow the livery of heaven
to practice the works of the devil.

In the last days, Says the Apostle,
perilous times shall come - "For men
shall be lovers of their own selves &c

And this class of men, will be in
the Church, having a form of sodli-
ness, but denying the power thereof -
They keep up a ^{fair} form and show of
religious Ceremonies, but they are
destitute of the life & power of
Sodliness.

And when we look round us, & see
the Corruptions of the Church, we
may safely conclude, that peri-
lous times are upon us. Corrupt
men are deceiving themselves, and their
example are deceiving others.

And yet they are patronizing the
Church - - But they dont show
any improvement -

And what can be the 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 will 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 bring in fruit, and reap for the heavenly garner -

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