

HOW SHOULD THE CHURCH REACT?

2 TIMOTHY 3:13–17

The last time we were together, we discovered, based on 2 Timothy 3:1–5 (please stop to read those five verses), what the church must realize. We learned of the “difficult times” that would surely come—in fact, such times are now upon us. The scriptural scene wasn’t pretty, but rather a raw and realistic warning of where we find ourselves today. It is one thing to hear and believe, but altogether something else to heed that warning and react responsibly. What *should* we do, knowing what we now know? Some have chosen to remain passive: simply sighing and looking the other way—hoping that things will soon get better. Others in the past have taken a more fanatical approach: deciding to set dates for Christ’s return, then sit on rooftops to wait . . . and wait . . . and wait—only to climb down disillusioned, embarrassed, and humiliated. The apostle Paul offers a better plan than either of those.

I. Passionate Warnings We Must Heed

Introduction

- Hearing of Danger _____
- Responding to Warnings _____

II. Scriptural Reactions We Must Follow

Exposition

- Stay realistic _____ (v. 13)
- Be convinced _____ (vv. 14–15)
- Stand firm _____ (v. 16a)
- Allow the truth _____ (vv. 16b–17)

III. Practical Principles We Must Remember

Application