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Read: 2 Timothy 3:1–9 (ESV)

*3:1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.*

(2 Timothy 3:1–9 ESV)

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1. From Hebrews 12:4, we know the word of God is “*living and active*”. Though this was written nearly two thousand years ago, it is pertinent for us now. Why does this seem like a timely passage for us to meditate on today?
2. Vs 5 seems particularly important for us in the bible belt because we are steeped in moral religion with, “the appearance of godliness but denying it’s power”. What does this mean and why is it detrimental to the Gospel?
3. This passage helps us know that it is difficult to remain true to the way of Jesus and not fall stray to false teaching. Do you see any bits of false teaching you are prone to believing? When is a time you have succumbed to this and what was it like?
4. How does the gospel of Jesus help us stand firm amidst these false teachings and difficult times? Why do you find hope because of Jesus in the face of these difficulties?

Prayer Exercise: In small groups, invite people to confess the ways they feel convicted by this passage and need God’s power to help them follow Jesus amidst these times of difficulty. Have the small groups pray for these things.

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