**DANGERS WE CAN'T IGNORE**

It's Time to Renew the Church - Part 5

Pastor Morris Barnett

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**2 Timothy 3:1-5 – Scripture Reading**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Memory Verses)**

**THE TIMES IN WHICH WE MINISTER:**

The challenge for twenty-first century Christians is how to think clearly in a culture that encourages us to hear with our emotions, see with our hearts, and think with our feelings. For many, this challenge is too great, causing Christians to lean toward one of three extremes. We withdraw into our "holy huddles" and maintain an "us four and no more" mentality. Or we see every cultural ill as a nail upon which to apply the hammer of politics. Or we hide our commitment to Christ and become "closet" Christians. We live in a dark and dangerous culture and something better must invade our thinking. That something is found in 1 Chronicles 12:32.

**1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT2)**   
From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.

The sons of Issachar were known for two characteristics:

* **Men Of Discernment**
* **Men Of Wisdom**

We need people like the sons of Issachar. And we who have the mind of Christ must be those people.

**1 Corinthians 2:16 (NIV)**   
"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

**GUIDELINES FOR THE CHURCH**

1. A SPECIFIC WARNING:

**Difficult People Ahead**

**2 Timothy 3:2-3 (NLT2)**   
For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.

1. A SUBTLE WARNING:

**Realize The Danger Outside and Inside**

**2 Timothy 3:3-4 (NLT2)**   
They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

1. A PERSONAL WARNING:

**Keep Clear Of Danger**

**2 Timothy 3:5 (NLT2)**   
They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!