

Two Directions - Part 3



Humans in the Last Days

Choose which list will describe your life

Them or Us or Both?

Power

"You, however..."

Self-Love vs. a Life of Love

Lovers of Money vs. Contentment

Pride vs. Humility

Without Self-Control vs. Self-Denial

Unforgiving vs. Endurance

Broken Relationships vs. Faithful Love

Lovers of Pleasure vs. Purpose

Rashness vs. Patience

Brutality vs. Love

(John 1:14) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Ephesians 4:15) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Treachery vs. Faithfulness

What We Believe and How We Live

(Titus 2:11–12) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. {12} It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

(Ephesians 2:8–9) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— {9} not by works, so that no one can boast.

(Ephesians 2:10) For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Two Lists Are Really Two Directions

The First List Can Show Up In Us

(Psalm 139:1-4) O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. {2} You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. {3} You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. {4} Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

(Psalm 139:23-24) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. {24} See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

The Second List Gives Us A Spiritual Checkup

Faith is tested in Difficult Circumstances

(John 16:33) “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

(Romans 8:38–39) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, {39} neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So Why Does Paul Give Timothy This Contrast?

This World Needs Christians Who Look Like The Second List

"What makes you different?"

(1 Peter 3:15b) ... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...

The Secret Is Not Trying Harder, It’s Living Closer To Christ

(Galatians 5:22–23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

(John 15:5) “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

The Two Lists Also Show Us The Battle For Our Affections

(Matthew 6:21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

What Will People See When They Look At Us?