

*Recap of 10/4/26 message by Chris Sommerfield
("Grow Up and Get Ready") 2 Timothy 3:1-17*

- This passage emphasizes the perilous times and the characteristics of individuals in the last days, urging believers to grow in their faith and not be swayed by godliness that lacks power. It highlights the richness of Scripture as the essential tool for equipping believers for every good work. To grow in spiritual maturity through the Scriptures equips us to withstand deception and empowers us for every good work that we are called to do in Christ.
- Paul begins by warning of difficult times coming and then he lists some of the characteristics of people who oppose God and Truth. The words here are quite jarring, and they are meant to be. This is the warning light, the siren. Paul is painting a picture that is meant to shake the listeners out of a comfortable stupor and recognize the coming challenges. He repeatedly uses similar sounds, repeated prefixes, paired constructions, and compact words, so that the hearer experiences the list almost as a barrage. When Paul tells Timothy to avoid those who "hold to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power," he's identifying people who claim Christian identity through their words and outward appearance, but whose lives contradict that profession. Though they retain a religious posture, having rejected the gospel, their philosophical claims are empty and powerless.
- These predators prey on the vulnerable, worming their way into homes and capturing those who are "weak-willed and loaded down with sin." The primary people in Ephesus who were preyed upon were women. Hiebert notes: "In their restless quest for the new and novel they turn to every new doctrine that comes to their attention." They had an insatiable curiosity about religion but little discernment to distinguish truth from error. This vulnerability does not exist only in women, but in us all. We need to take the warning seriously and grow toward spiritual maturity so as not to be deceived.
- Growing to spiritual maturity includes both mind and body, belief and behavior, affections and actions. We grow to maturity through the equipping that comes from the inspired Word of God. Scripture is inerrant because it is "God-breathed," and as such it is sufficient for all matters of life and godliness. As we become equipped (mended) through the power of God's word we are prepared to stand against the deceptions that come our way. We should all consider the ways in which we are vulnerable. Is your worldview and faith shaped more by Joe Rogan or some other influencer more than God, the author and perfecter of our faith?