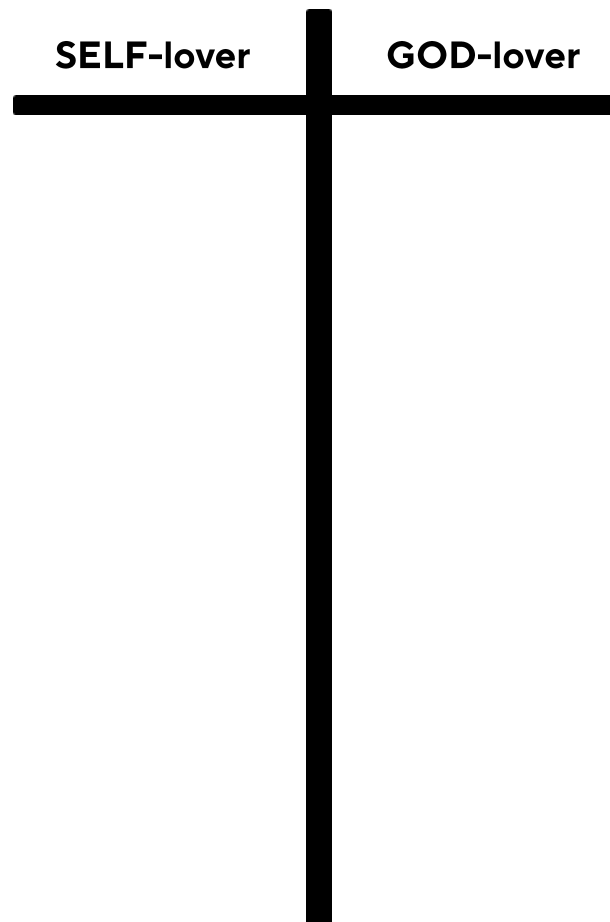


RAISE THE BAR
Terrible Times in the LAST DAYS (Pt.2)

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The CHARACTER of this AGE

As we get closer to judgment day, evil will become progressively worse. The main characteristic of these terrible times is to be a self-lover. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul presents many phrases which represent a self-lover. We will also compare so that we can see what it means to be a God-lover. This will help us overcome the evil around us.



Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. Discuss Satan's plan to totally destroy the importance of the family (dad, mom, children). In what ways are you seeing the breakdown of the family in our society? How much has this changed in just the last few years?

Digging Deeper

2. Read Romans 1:26-32 and compare this list with 2 Timothy 3. How can you hate these characteristics, but at the same time love the people of this world?
3. Study the differences between humans and animals (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:5; Matthew 10:31). Part of Satan's strategy is for humans to raise the animals to the same level as them and then to act like animals with primal behavior. How can you make sure that you are led by the Spirit instead of being led away by your selfish nature?
4. How does the Bible describe loyalty (Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 2 Samuel 23:15-16; Joshua 1:16-18; Deuteronomy 7:9)? Would others describe you as a loyal friend? Have you ever been betrayed, and if so, how have you dealt with this hurt?

Applying the Word to Life

5. How does God transform our minds so that it is renewed regularly (Romans 12:1-2)? It takes the surrender of self by putting our own will on the altar of sacrifice. What specific "area of self" can you sacrifice so God can transform you?
6. After looking at the columns on the other side of this page, would you describe yourself as a self-lover or a God-lover? What step can you take to make sure you are walking with God? What will it take for you to be convicted to ask the Holy Spirit to transform you into a God-lover?