



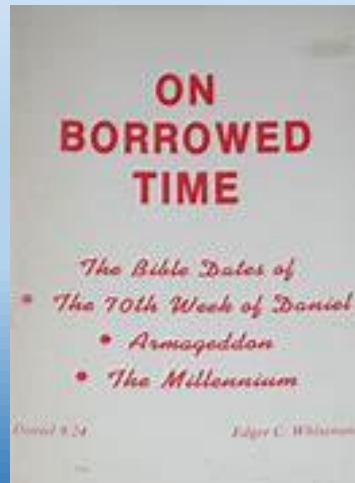
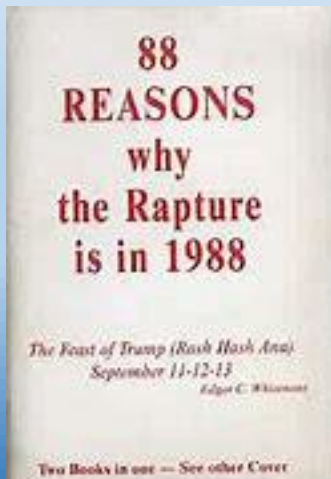
June 9
2 Timothy 3

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 2 Tim. 3: 1-5 (NIV)



“the last days” (verse 1)

1. Jewish concepts of the present age and age to come
2. Roman occupation and Emperor Nero’s abuse of Christians
3. “Do not fear” – one of the most repeated phrases in scripture
4. ³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”
⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” (Matthew 24: 36, 42) (NIV)



“...lovers of themselves...” (verse 2)

- The second greatest commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”
Matthew 16:24 (NIV)
- For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3 (NIV)



⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷ always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹ But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.



“...worm their way into homes and gain control...” (verse 6)

Inviting strangers into our homes seems uncommon in the present age...

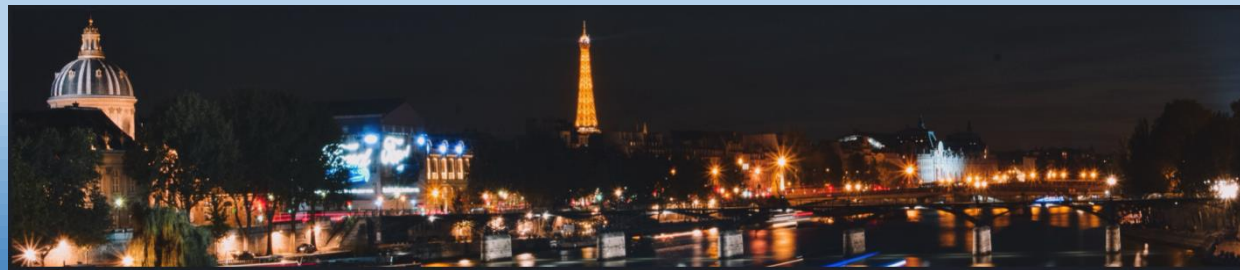
Or is it?

1. Average US daily TV watching in 2024: 163 minutes¹
2. Average US daily cell phone time in 2023: 4 hours and 25 minutes²



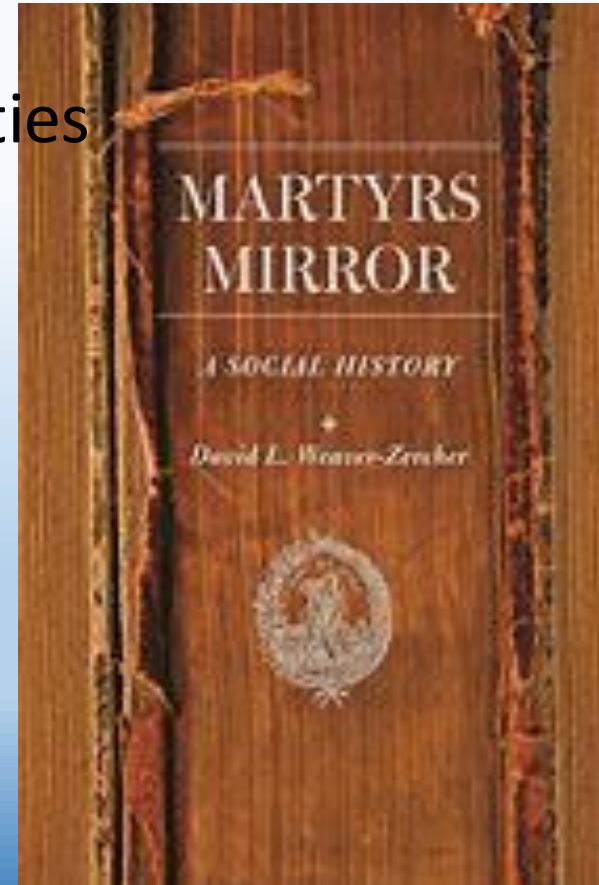
1. <https://www.oberlo.com/statistics/how-much-tv-does-the-average-american-watch>
2. <https://www.pcmag.com/news/americans-check-their-phones-an-alarming-number-of-times-per-day>

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.



Enduring persecution

1. Paul is not alone in emphasizing his suffering for the gospel.
2. Do your persecutions measure up to Paul's?
3. Are all persecutions done by governments, or soldiers?
4. Consider other forms of persecution:
 - A. Denial of information or fellowship opportunities
 - B. Denial of identity
 - C. Ostracism, or gossip from "friends"
 - D. Choosing the narrow way



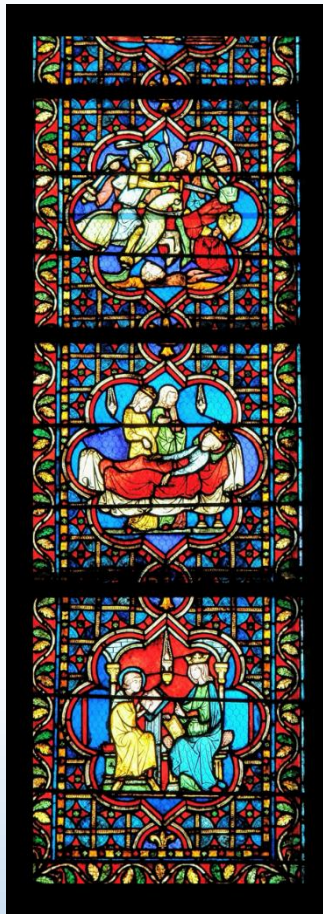
If you are feeling persecuted for your faith

⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44 (NIV)

²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

²² In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you. Proverbs 25: 21-22 (NIV)

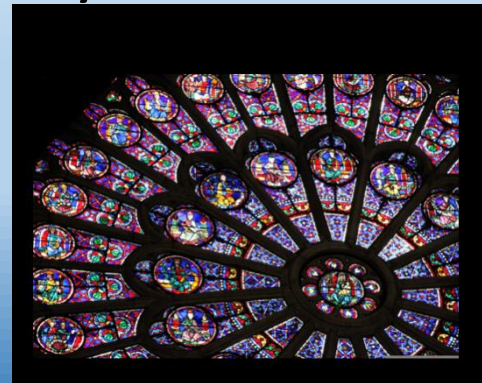
¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Romans 12: 17-19 (NIV)



Responding through prayer and praise!

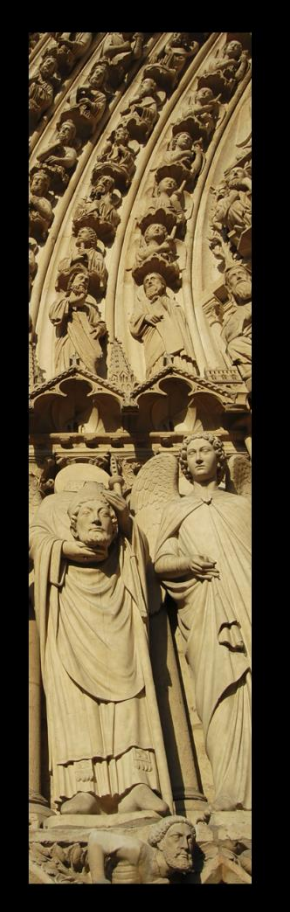
¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ...¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5: 13, 16 (NIV)

¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Peter 4:13 (NIV)



14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3: 14-17 (NIV)



Note the uses of scripture:

Making wise

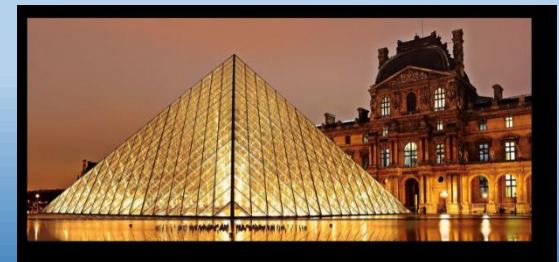
Teaching

Rebuking

Correcting

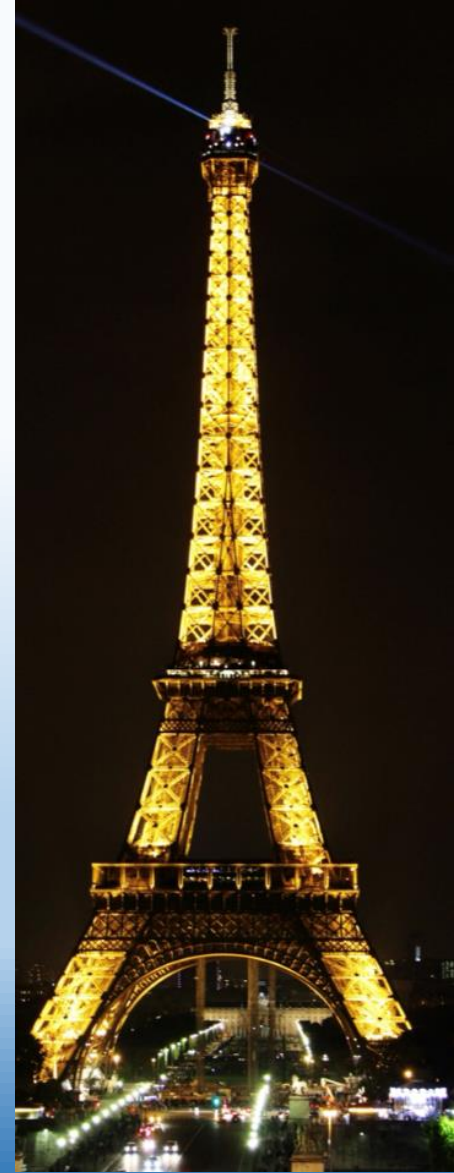
Training

To be able to recognize depraved individuals (as described in verses 1-5) and deceptive ideologies (verses 6-8), we need to be in the Word on a regular basis.



The most important purpose of scripture...

is to “make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (verse 15)



City of lights, City of love: Paris

