Self-centeredness
2 Tim. 3:2

Introduction:
A. Self-centeredness is a sign of perilous times (vv. 1-2).
   1. Root of the other 18 or so signs of perilous times.
   2. Root of much of our discontent and unhappiness.
B. Self-centeredness produces some very grave consequences.

Discussion:
I. It Robs God of Preeminence in Our Hearts.
   A. God must occupy first place in our hearts and lives.
      1. Must be sanctified (set apart) in our hearts. (1 Pet. 3:15).
      2. Must bring every thought into obedience to Him (2 Cor. 10:5).
   B. The self-centered person pleases himself first.
      1. If he wants a pleasure outing, the Lord’s day will not interfere.
      2. If he wants to do anything, the Lord’s will will not get in the way.

II. It Places the Lord’s Church on the Back Burner.
   A. The importance of the church to Jesus.
      1. He purchased it with his own blood (Acts 20:28).
      2. He loved it enough to give himself for it (Eph. 5:25)
   B. The kingdom/church must come before personal interests (Matt. 6:33).
      1. Just as Jesus put our interest before his own (Phil. 2:3-8).
      2. Areas where people are prone to put the church on back burner.
         a. Scheduling their time.
         b. Budgeting their money.
         c. Pursuing their comfort/pleasure.
         d. Exercising their rights (Rom. 15:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:18-22).

III. It Turns People into Spoiled Brats at Any Age.
   A. Who do their “Own Thing” Regardless of Others.
      1. Parents who do not consider children in divorce.
      2. Brethren who do not consider physical, emotional and spiritual needs of brethren.
      1. At home.
      2. At work.
      3. At church.
   C. Who Resent Having to Share with Others.
      1. Time.
      2. Attention.

IV. It Is Self-destructive.
   A. The Rich young ruler (Matt. 19:22)
   B. The Rich fool (Luke 12:16-20 - Note the “I”’s)

Conclusion:
A. Let’s get out of ourselves and quit thinking:
   1. “I have myself to consider” – you do after God, His church/kingdom and others.
   2. “Lord bless me, my son, John and his wife, us four and no more”
B. Let’s rise above ourselves by obeying the Lord.