

## FINISH LINE

- God has left us signs telling us we are getting closer to the end, so we won't miss it!!
- ONE BIG SIGN – **Crazy Weather Events**
- **Romans 8:19 – 22 (NLT)** *For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. <sup>20</sup> Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, <sup>21</sup> the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. <sup>22</sup> For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*
- The earth was cursed because of Adam's sin. But it's waiting for the day when Genesis 2 Adam is ruling and caring for the earth again. Til then, the earth is groaning in turmoil waiting for redemption.

## Week #3 – The BIG Head

**II Timothy 3:1 – 5 (NKJV)** *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, BOASTERS, PROUD, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, HAUGHTY, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power...*

- Three of those 19 signs go hand in hand. **Boasters, Proud, and Haughty: THE BIG HEAD!!**

### 2. Boasters

- The last days will be marked by a culture with no humility or gracefulness.
- *Boasters (Gr. Alazon) – an empty pretender; a braggart; boaster. A stock character in Greek drama, the alazon is a stupid braggart who is easily tricked and defeated by the clever underdog eiron (root of irony) who allows the alazon to brag of his accomplishments, while downplaying his own abilities.*
- There's a natural tendency in us all to accentuate our better qualities and downplay our weaknesses.
- The boaster, however, becomes intoxicated with the applause of the crowd and continually looks for new ways to gain the favor or approval of those he is trying to impress.
- **Proverbs 27:2 (NIV)** – *Let SOMEONE ELSE PRAISE YOU, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.*
- Christ-like character includes letting others speak of our virtues, instead of declaring it ourselves.
- **QUOTE:** *The root of boasting is pride, competition, and low self-worth. We should seek to be OUR best, not THE best!!*
- **Jeremiah 9:23, 24 (MSG)** *“God's Message: "Don't let the wise brag of their wisdom. Don't let heroes brag of their exploits. Don't let the rich brag of their riches. 24 If you brag, brag of this and this only: That you understand and know me. I'm God, and I act in loyal love. I do what's right and set things right and fair, and delight in those who do the same things. These are my trademarks.”*
- **Ephesians 2:8, 9 (NLT)** – *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*
- Everything good about us is a result of the grace of God.
- **QUOTE (John the Baptist)** – *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

**3. Proud** – *an exaggerated opinion of one's self-worth.*

**4. Haughty** – *to function with an arrogant demeanor that looks down on others.*

- Pride is the inward feeling. Haughtiness is the outward look.

- **Proverbs 8:13 (NKJV)** – *The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.*
- **Proverbs 11:2 (NKJV)** – *When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.*
- **Proverbs 13:10 (NIV)** – *Where there is STRIFE, there is PRIDE, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*
- **Proverbs 29:23 (NASB)** – *A person's pride will BRING HIM LOW, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.*
- **QUOTE:** *Pride will bring a person down because proud people won't listen.*