

The Great Gain of Godliness

Workshop: Midlands Men's Convention (West), 6th November 2021

- What is your immediate response when you hear the word 'godliness'?
- What is 'godliness'? *eusebeia* (NT Greek) = 'the duty that we owe to God' (BAGD)
(noun = piety, godliness, religion)
(verb = be reverent, respectful, devout)
(adjective = devout, godly, pious, reverent)

So, godliness is 'devotion to God shown in conduct'

Discussion Questions

1. What is the value/gain of godliness? See 1 Timothy 4:7,8 & 6:3,5,6

- So, what motivation do we have for pursuing godliness?

- What further motivations are there?

2. Where does godliness come from? See 1 Timothy 3:16, Titus 1:1, 2:12, 2 Peter 1:3

- How, then, are we to pursue godliness in our lives?

- How do you square that with the commands to 'train yourself to be godly' (1 Timothy 4:7), to 'pursue godliness' (1 Timothy 6:11), to 'make every effort to add godliness' (2 Peter 1:6), and to 'live holy and godly lives' (2 Peter 3:11)?

Worked Example

What will help us to pursue godliness in the face of materialism?

NT references (NIV, UK)

1 Timothy 2:2. I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all **godliness** and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour ...

1 Timothy 3:16. Beyond all question, the mystery from which true **godliness** springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 4:7,8. ... train yourself to be **godly**. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

1 Timothy 5:4. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to **put their religion into practice** by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

1 Timothy 6:3,5,6. If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to **godly** teaching ... people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that **godliness** is a means to financial gain. But **godliness** with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

1 Timothy 6:11. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, **godliness**, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

2 Timothy 3:5. ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of **godliness** but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

2 Timothy 3:12. In fact, everyone who wants to live a **godly** life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Titus 1:1. Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to **godliness** ...

Titus 2:12. For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us ... to live self-controlled, upright and **godly** lives in this present age ...

2 Peter 1:3. His divine power has given us everything we need for a **godly** life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own power and goodness.

2 Peter 1:6,7. For this very reason, make every effort to add ... to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, **godliness**; and to **godliness**, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

2 Peter 2:9. ... the Lord knows how to rescue the **godly** from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

2 Peter 3:11. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and **godly** lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.