

Godliness

TEXT: Titus 2:1-13

KEY VERSE: Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. — 1 Timothy 4:8

We have been studying the progressive pattern for the development of Christian character (2 Peter 1:5,6). According to this plan, godliness follows patience. Exercising patience in the endurance of “fiery trials” will help bring about this development of godliness. Godliness is different from worldliness, and is only attainable through a strong desire to please God.

RESPONSES

1. Your students’ definitions will bring out that *godliness* means “to be devoted to God, to have our actions and thoughts and desires of a nature that will please God and be like Him.”

2. Acts 24:16 — conscience void of offense
Ephesians 6:18 — prayer
James 1:27 — visit fatherless, keep ourselves unspotted
James 3:17 — pure, peaceable, gentle, etc.
2 Peter 3:11 — holy conversation
Ask students to share their answers. Discuss each of the criteria given and develop what each means with reference to the students’ own lives.

3. Allow time for students’ responses. Some examples might be: Naomi versus Lot’s wife, and Enoch versus Judas. Through these examples, help your students evaluate the differences.

1. Explain what *godliness* means to you.

2. Using the following Scriptures, list some of the criteria of godliness that we can measure our lives by.

- Acts 24:16
- Ephesians 6:18
- James 1:27
- James 3:17
- 2 Peter 3:11

3. A person who is worldly is more concerned about things of this world than about spiritual or eternal things. The concerns of a godly person are the opposite. Give a biblical example of one godly person and one worldly person.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. Physical fitness and exercise are major concerns in our day. However, 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs us to exercise ourselves unto godliness. What are some of the ways this can be done?

5. Today's text gives instructions to five different ages and classes of individuals. Name the five. What conclusion can we draw from this?

6. According to 2 Peter 1:4, Christians are to have a certain nature. What is it? When we have that nature, what do we escape?

7. What criterion should we use to discern whether something is worldly or godly?

8. "Profit" is an important word in business circles. Referring to our key verse, explain what you think is meant by the phrase "Godliness is profitable unto all things . . ." Be specific!

4. Encourage your students to contribute their ideas. Some suggestions might include: Bible study, prayer, church attendance, and doing good for others. Supplementary Scriptures to use include Matthew 25:35-40 and James 1:25-27.

5. The classes of individuals are: aged men, aged women, young women, young men, and servants. Your students will likely conclude that godliness is imperative for all ages and in all areas of our lives. As godliness is practiced, they have the assurance of God's blessing.

6. Christians are to have a "divine nature." When one has this nature, he will be free from sinful desires, and ultimately will escape eternal damnation. A possible follow-up to this question could be arranged by dividing your class into units of two. Give each couple a few moments to think about one attribute of God, and then have them explain to the whole group how we can develop or exemplify that attribute in our lives.

7. Allow time for student response. They should reach the conclusion that the determining factor is whether it is pleasing to God.

8. Your students' responses should bring out the thought that the man who fears, loves, and serves God, receives great dividends. He has God's blessing all through life, both this present life and in the life to come. His faith, to which he has added the other attributes listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7, saves him from the sins and excesses of this world. The peace and love of God in the heart produce serenity and calm. He acquires a full preparation here below for an eternal life of glory Above. Thus godliness has the promise of Heaven, and secures the blessings of both worlds.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

List all the attributes of godliness that you can think of.

How do you think you can attain these attributes in your own life?

What is your definition of *godliness*? *worldliness*?

Imagine that you invite one of your friends to church. He tells you that he “sort of” liked your church, but that it was too strict, and demanded way too much of a person. He doesn’t think that God would require all that from us to make Heaven. What would you say to your friend?

Is it possible to be godly and worldly at the same time?

What are some of the characteristics of a worldly person? of a godly person?

How will the attributes discussed in our previous lessons help us develop godliness? Can we attain godliness without the previous steps?

In the ANSWER story, all of Mr. Thomas’ riches couldn’t buy what he needed most in this world—godliness. Tom realized that if he put his faith in God and was content with what he had, he would gain the real wealth that Mr. Thomas had sought after. What are some things in daily life which may distract us and keep us from seeking after the things of God?

THINGS TO DO

Use a mirror to represent a person’s life. Take two objects: one to represent the world or worldliness, and one to represent God or godliness. The positioning or tilt of the mirror will determine which object is reflected, thus showing that the image that is reflected to others is determined by whether one is leaning toward the world or God.

Using a model airplane, define *attitude* in terms of aerodynamics. (The positioning of the plane in relationship to prevailing air currents.) The winds of the “enemy,” or the world, are blowing against the Christian. They can blow us off course (the goal being Heaven) unless we keep our attitude (our determination to make the goal)

adjusted. As pressure increases we must adjust our attitude to compensate. We do this by calling on God and applying more of Heaven’s resources.

Fill a quart jar with clear water. Add dirt or ink, a little at a time, naming some of the “pollutions of the world” (2 Peter 2:20).

Show your students a sheet of clear glass. Tell them the glass is symbolic of us as Christians. We stand between Christ and the world, and they see Him only through us. Use this to illustrate how important it is for us to keep ourselves unspotted, so that His image may remain free from distortion and be clearly visible.

Answers for ANSWER

How Should We Live?

Godliness is doing things to please God. The words given in the apples are a part of godliness. Search the Word-Find for the words and circle them.