

Godliness and God's Plan

Eph 1:4

“Godliness is the child of truth, and it must be nursed by its own mother. Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby.” William Gurnall

“If truth be told, most of us spend longer each day on personal cleanliness than on practical godliness.” Alister Begg

“Nearness to God brings likeness to God. The more you see God the more of God will be seen in you.” Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“Christ is so in love with holiness that at the price of his blood he will buy it for us.” John Flavel

“The evidence of genuine piety is to be found in real humility, self-distrust, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, sorrow for sin, and a continual effort to regulate your thoughts, feelings, and conduct by the Word of God.” John Angell James

“Urgently we do need a revival of personal godliness. This is, indeed: the secret of church prosperity. When individuals fall from their steadfastness, the church is tossed to and fro; when personal faith is steadfast, the church abides true to her Lord.” Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“The godly fear and do not offend [God] but the wicked offend and do not fear [God].” Thomas Watson

“Holiness is nothing else but the habitual and predominant devotion and dedication of soul, and body, and life, and all that we have to God; and esteeming, and loving, and serving, and seeking Him, before all the pleasures and prosperity of the flesh and the world.” — Richard Baxter

“The way to be truly happy is to be truly human, and the way to be truly human is to be truly godly.” J.I. Packer

“Holiness is not something we are called upon to do in order that we might become something; it is something we are to do because of what we are already are.” — Dr. Martin Llyod Jones

“Necessity is laid upon us. We must fight. There are no promises in the Lord Jesus Christ's epistles to the seven churches, except to those who 'overcome.' Where there is grace, there will be conflict. The believer is a soldier. There is no holiness without a warfare. Saved souls will always be found to have fought a fight.” J.C. Ryle

“Godliness is the sacred impression and workmanship of God in a man, whereby from being carnal he is made spiritual.” —Thomas Watson

“Periodical godliness is perpetual hypocrisy” — Charles Haddon Spurgeon

“True faith can no more be without holiness, than true fire without heat.” — John Owen

Intro: “Train yourself to godliness” (1 Tim 4:7)

Seven Proofs for the Priority of Godliness in the Believer’s Life from 1 Timothy

1. Godliness is the _____ of the believer’s life (2:2,10)!
2. Godliness is the _____ for the believer’s life (3:16)!
3. Godliness is a _____ for the believer’s life (4:7)!
4. Godliness is a _____ in the believer’s life (5:3)!
5. Godliness is a _____ through the believer’s life (6:3)!
6. Godliness is a _____ satisfying the believer’s life (6:6)!
7. Godliness is a _____ in the believer’s life (6:11)!

I. What is godliness?

1. Godliness is inseparably linked to biblical _____
(See Ps 1:1-3; Jn 17:17 & 2 Tim 3:16-17; Titus 1:1 cf. Rom 1:18 & Titus 1:14)
2. Godliness is tethered to _____ and _____ for God
(Ex 3:1-6; 14:31; Ps 130:4; 2 Cor 7:1; Heb 12:28-29; 1 Pet 1:15-17)
3. Godliness is rooted and enjoyed in _____
(Rom 6:1-14; Eph 2:10; Col 1:21-22; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Titus 2:11-14; Phil 2:12-13)

4. Godliness is not less than but more than correct _____
(1 Tim 3:16; 6:6; 2 Tim 3:5; Col 3:1-4, 10; 2 Pet 1:4; Phil 3:12-14; Heb 12:14; 2 Cor 10:4-6)
5. Godliness is both a duty and delight that flows from personal _____
(Rom 12:1-21; Phil 2:12-13; 3:7-11; 2 Tim 3:12; Gal 2:20; 1 Cor 6:19-20; 2 Cor 5:14-15)

Godliness comes from the Greek word εὐσέβεια which means “awesome respect accorded to God.”

Godliness is an internal attitude of God centeredness that leads to external actions of Christlikeness!

“The outward visible witness of a genuine faith in and reverence for God” John Kitchen

Recap:

*Godliness is God **CENTEREDNESS** that yields God likeness!*

~ To be godly is to **WALK** with God through **OBEDIENCE** to His Word!

~ To be ungodly is to **WALK AWAY** from God and walk with and in the ways of Satan!

II. Why a study on godliness?

- Consider the reality of godliness as a gift and fruit of the gospel
~ 1 Cor 1:30-31; 2 Cor 3:18-4:6; 5:21; Phil 2:12-14; Col 1:21-23; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Pet 1:3
- Consider the duty to pursue godliness as a believer
~ 1 Tim 2:2; 4:7-8; 6:3-7; 6:11; Titus 1:1; 2:11-14; Col 3:5-17; 1 Pet 1:15-16; 2 Pet 1:3-7; 3:11-12, 18

- Consider the results and God's response to the godly man versus the ungodly man
~ Ps 1:1-6; 1 Sam 2:9; Prov 3:34; 15:8-9; Js 4:6 (1 Pet 5:5); Rom 1:18; Jude 14-15

- Consider the inseparable link between godliness and manhood, marriage, parenting, and ministry/life in the Church
~ Rom 8:29; 2 Pet 1:4; Col 3:10; Eph 4:13; Gal 4:19; 1 Cor 16:13-14; Gen 2:15; Eph 5:22-33; 6:4; 1 Pet 3:1-7, Titus 2:1-10

- Consider the foundational nature of godliness in leading the church
~ 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:1-6; 20:17-38; 1 Tim 4:11-16; 6:11; 1 Pet 5:1-5; Heb 13:7,17

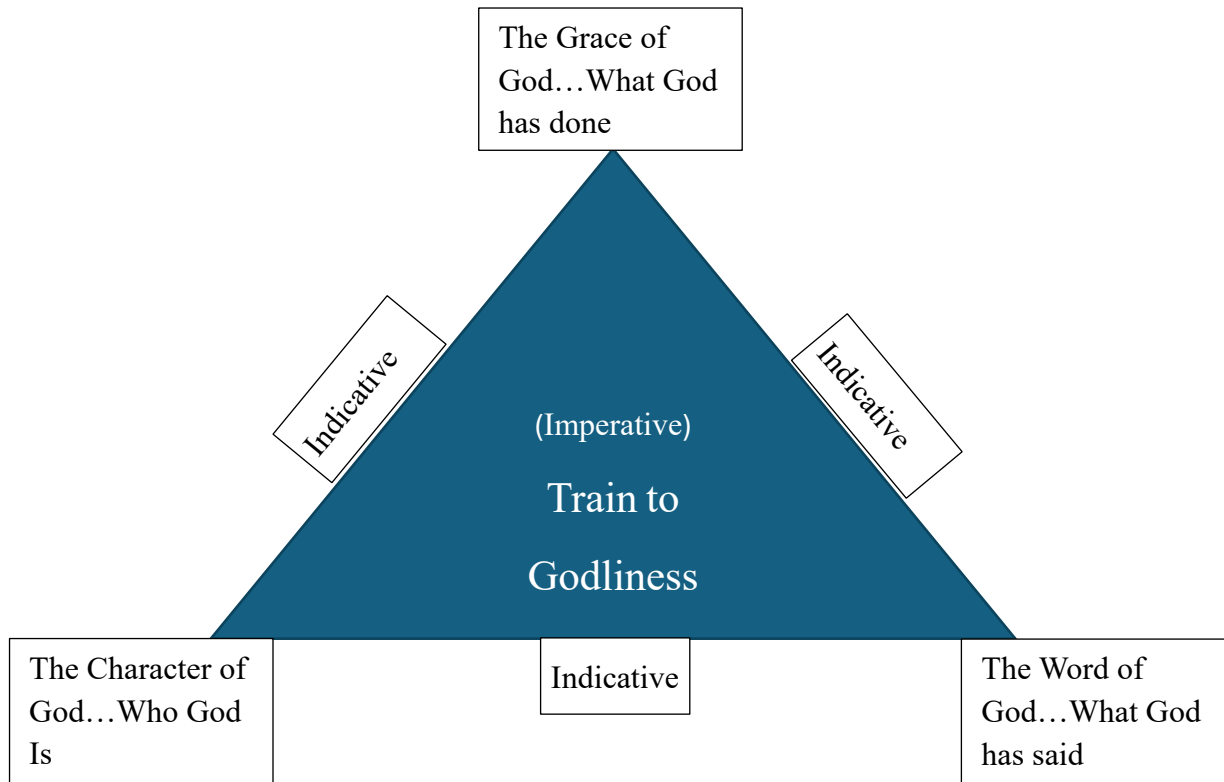
- Consider the delight of being a godly man
~Ps 1:1-6; 16:1-11; Phil 3:7-14; Isa 66:2; 2 Pet 1:11; 1 Thess 2:1-12; 2:19; 2 Tim 2:15; Js 1:12; 2 Tim 4:6-8; 1 Tim 6:6

- Consider the difficulty of being a godly man
~ Jerm 17:9; Rom 7:13-25; Gal 5:16-17; Eph 6:10-18; Col 3:5-11; 2 Tim 3:1-9; Js 1:13-15; 1 Pet 5:6-9; 2 Pet 2:1-3; 1 Cor 11:1-15; 1 Jn 2:15-17; 5:19

- Consider the urgent necessity for you to be a godly man
~ Mt 12:36; 1 Cor 4:1-2; 2 Cor 5:10; Heb 12:14; 1 Tim 4:7; 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Thess 4:1-7

- Consider the perpetual examples of godly servants used by God throughout Scripture
~ Gen 5:21-25; 6:9; 22:1-18; 39:9; Heb 11:23-28; Job 1:1-2:3; Dan 1:8; Jerm 1:4-19; Lk 1:5-24; Mt 14:4; Jn 21:19; Rev 1:9; Acts 26:14-18; Ruth 3:11 cf. Prov 31; 1 Sam 25; Lk 1:26-56; Acts 16:14-15; 1 Cor 16:19 & Rom 16:3-5; Acts 18:24-26 cf. 2 Tim 4:19; Rom 16:1-2; Titus 2:1-5

III. How do I train myself to godliness?



Godliness is devotion in action!
Duty + Delight = Devotion
(Mt 22:36-40)