

Assurance 101

Lesson 5

Godliness

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: Only after an individual has continued in lifestyle obedience to the Word of God can true godliness be found. Godliness is a life lived in conformity to the Word of God and daily seeking to have the mind of Christ. That is why godliness is found at this point in the chain of assurance. Godliness is the fruit that comes from patiently enduring through sanctifying trials.

The presence of godliness accomplishes a great deal in producing assurance in the life of a child of God because it is the surest evidence of the nature of God manifesting itself.

Only a life of persistent growth and development will produce godliness and that is why it is such a rare commodity in Christianity. We are warned in Scripture that many in the last days will profess godliness, have a form of godliness, but few will actually possess or exhibit godliness. We are also told that those who do live godly will be persecuted for it. However, the Scriptures also give numerous promises about the blessings that are associated with godliness. We are told that godliness with contentment is great gain. We are challenged to exercise ourselves unto godliness because it has benefits both in this life and the life to come. While the way of transgressors is hard: the path of the just shines more and more until the perfect day. While the child of God has the hope of eternal life; the ungodly only have hope in this life and are of all men most miserable.

Because of these benefits, it is the primary goal of our enemy to thwart the attempts of God's people to produce godliness in their lives. The Devil would loath to see the joy and blessings of godliness advertised to this world and other Christians. Because of that, he advertises the difficulties of attaining godliness and portrays it as being a life of bondage, stern discipline, and unhappiness when nothing could be further from the truth. That is the great device of the Devil to convince God's children that disobedience and rebellion is true happiness and that God is just a cosmic kill-joy. That was the tactic that he employed in the Garden of Eden and look at the disastrous results it has produced in the earth. That is why it is such a tragedy that our enemy continues to convince God's people against the joys of holiness. Christians must acknowledge and remember that holiness is happiness!

One of the primary joys of heaven will be the removal of our sinful bodies; because sin is the true source of unhappiness and misery. Therefore, the less sin we have in our lives while on earth, the happier we will be. The more sin that we have in our life, the less joyful we will be. That is why the Bible calls them "deceitful lusts" because they do not produce the joy that they promise but rather bring a person into bondage and into despair. God forbid that the children of God fall prey to this deception and fail to pursue a life lived in obedience to God's Word.

However, the primary motivation for pursuing godliness should not be the blessing that it brings to our lives rather it should be the desire to glorify God. That is the chief end or purpose for why we were created. God commanded His people to be holy because *He* is holy. Godliness comes from having a reverence for God and a desire to be pleasing to Him in our lives. Because He is holy, if we have the divine nature, we should have the desire to be holy as well. If there is no desire for holiness it again raises doubts about a person truly partaking of the Divine nature.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.*

English: **godliness** -

Piety –

Greek: (2150) **eusebeia** *yoo-seb'-i-ah*

(2317) **theosebeia** *theh-os-eb'-i-ah*

Quotation:

“Lukewarmness is indicated by a negligence in acts of piety and a carelessness in fixed habits of devotion; such as daily reading God’s word, regular seasons of prayer, constant guarding of our conversation, seasons of fasting, and habits of divine and heavenly meditation. There is not only a carelessness in the performing of these acts, but a dullness of spirit, a slovenness of mind, in the doing of them. As nearly all tightrope walkers and lion tamers sooner or later get killed in their foolish game by a little carelessness, so many Christians fall from elevated grace and are devoured by lions, through a thoughtless and careless spirit in Christian duty.

Another symptom of lukewarmness is a trusting to the magic of former grace. The soul has experienced, by an instantaneous regeneration, or an instantaneous sanctification, such floods of light and love as seem to sweep it out on an irresistible tide and everything religious easy, that everything works like a charm. But this very flood tide of holy ease becomes a snare to the soul. It leans upon the instantaneous blessings to work by a sort of magic, and to take the place of patient, thoughtful perseverance. There are hundreds who are lazily expecting the mere blessing of sanctification to take them through, and do not perceive that the chilling frost is settling down in the edges of their souls. It is as if a captain of a fine ship, after her getting her out to sea, with the sails all set, and fairly in the wind, should lash the helm, and tell the crew they might take a holiday, expecting the wind and the ship, the chart and the compass, to do the balance. There are more souls doing this thing than we dream of.” G.D. Watson

“I do not mean by holiness the mere performance of outward duties of religion, coldly acted over, as a task; not our habitual prayings, hearings, fastings, multiplied one upon another (though these be all good, as subservient to a higher end); but I mean an inward soul and principle of divine life that spiriteth all these.” Ralph Cudworth

“Will you say that godliness is unpleasant, because it makes a man sorry for his ungodliness? ... Would you wish a man that hath lived so long in sin and misery, to have no sorrow for it in his return—especially when it is but a healing sorrow, preparing for remission, and not a sorrow joined with despair, as theirs will be that die impenitently.” Richard Baxter

“Piety hath a wondrous virtue to change all things into a matter of consolation and joy. No condition in effect can be evil or sad to a pious man: his very sorrows are pleasant, his infirmities are wholesome, his wants enrich him, his disgraces adorn him, his burdens ease him; his duties are privileges, his falls are the grounds of advancement, his very sins (as breeding contrition, humility, circumspection, and vigilance), do better and profit him: whereas impiety doth spoil every condition, doth corrupt and embase all good things, doth embitter all the conveniences and comforts of life.” Isaac Barrow

“Perfect holiness is the aim of the saints on earth, and it is the reward of the saints in Heaven.” Joseph Caryl

“What greater crime than holiness, if the devil may be one of the grand jury!” Thomas Watson

“Do you have patience? An excellent grace indeed, but not enough. You must be pious as well. So Peter continues, ‘to patience [add] godliness’. Godliness encompasses the whole worship of God, inward and outward. Your morals may be impeccable, but if you do not worship God, then you are an atheist. If you worship Him and that devoutly, but not according to Scripture, you are an idolator. If according to the rule, but not according to the spirit of the gospel, then

you are a hypocrite. The only worship that leads to the inner chamber of true godliness is that which is done in spirit and in truth.” William Gurnall

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

London Baptist Confession of 1689

Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation - paragraphs 1-4

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is required to produce a life of godliness?
2. How and why does godliness produce assurance of salvation?
3. Why is godliness such a rare commodity in Christianity today?
4. What does Scripture tell us about the benefits of godliness?
5. How does the enemy portray godliness? Give examples.
6. Why does the enemy portray godliness in such a way?
7. How did the enemy use this tactic in the Garden of Eden and what was the result?
8. Why does the Bible call them “deceitful” lusts?
9. What is the correlation between sin and joy?

10. What should be the primary motive for pursuing godliness?

Key Scriptures:

Psalm 4:3 David declares that God has _____ the godly for Himself.

Psalm 12:1 Here David complains because the godly man _____ and cannot be found.

Jeremiah 5:1 God asks Jeremiah to diligently try to find _____ man, to see if there were _____ that seeketh the _____ and He would pardon the city from judgment.

Malachi 2:15 God gave Adam only one wife, though he had the power to make more, because He was seeking a godly _____ or heritage of children.

I Timothy 2:1-2 We are challenged to pray for government authorities so that we have the opportunity to live a life in _____.

I Timothy 2:10 A woman who is _____ godliness should be careful to maintain good _____.

I Timothy 3:16 Great is the _____ of godliness, which is another way of describing the great gospel plan that God created to produce godliness in fallen mankind.

I Timothy 4:7-8 Paul challenged Timothy to _____ unprofitable discussion but to _____ himself to produce godliness because it is profitable unto _____ things.

I Timothy 6:3-11 Many people wrongly associate _____ and wealth with godliness. However, the Bible declares that godliness is _____ gain because it endures while temporal riches do not. In contrast, riches also lead men into _____ and a _____ while godliness does no such thing.

II Timothy 3:5 The false religion of the last days would only have a _____ of godliness which Paul instructed Timothy to _____ from.

II Timothy 3:12 The cost of godliness in a sinful world is _____.

Titus 1:1 There must be an _____ of the _____ before it will produce _____.

Titus 2:11-12 Genuine salvation teaches a person to deny _____ and worldliness but to live soberly, righteously and _____ in this world.

Hebrews 12:28 In order to serve God _____ we must have reverence and godly _____ with a right perspective of who He is.

II Peter 1:3 God has _____ us all we need to live a life of godliness.

II Peter 3:11 Because the earth is going to be destroyed by fire someday we should live a _____ lifestyle of godliness.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: I Timothy 4:8

Personal Definition: *(Write a definition in your own words)*

Godliness -

Personal Application: Relate an experience in your life where pursuing godliness brought unexpected joy:

Meditation question: *(be prepared for discussion)* How do you identify a godly person?

Extra Credit

Identify the godliest person that you know and list five reasons why.