

Title: Godliness is Profitable

Text: 1 Tim 4: 8

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1 Timothy 4: 6: If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. 7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness. 8: For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. 9: This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

Title: Godliness is Profitable

Godliness is genuine Christianity. It is true, vital, experimental, religion created of God in the heart made new by grace. True godliness begins when God gives his child spiritual life, a fear of God and makes us to know we are righteous in Christ through faith.

Exercising ourselves unto godliness is to give ourselves in thought, word and deed to the object of our affection—Christ Jesus. Every man exercises himself toward the object of his affection. Thus each man becomes more conformed to that object: the man of this world; has his thoughts set on the world and becomes conformed to the world; the self-righteous man has his mind set on himself and his form of religion and becomes more conformed to his form; the truly godly man has his heart set on Christ and exercises himself in the means God has given and grows in grace and knowledge of Christ—we have lasting communion with Christ and his people.

So to exercise ourselves unto godliness is to have our affections set on things above rather than this earth. Our life is hid with Christ in God so Christ is the object of our affection. Exercising godliness is seeking to know more of Christ and to conduct ourselves in a way which pleases him. All genuine godliness seeks a more godly life and conversation.

To exercise ourselves unto godliness requires effort on our part. Paul says make it your business—your exercise. Pure religion—true godliness—is not by fits and starts but is our daily exercise. Ungodly men exercise themselves—they have “an heart they have exercised with covetous practices.” (2 Pet 2: 14) But the apostle Paul said, “after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, ... Herein do I exercise myself to have always a conscience void of offence, toward God and toward men.”

Proposition: Our text says that godliness is profitable unto all things having promises from God to his child concerning this life and in the life to come.

I. GOD PROMISES TO FURNISH THE BELIEVER WITH WHATEVER IS NECESSARY FOR US IN THIS LIFE--V8—HAVING THE PROMISE OF THE LIFE THAT NOW IS

Let's understand this first. There is a difference between what we WANT and what we NEED. God does not promise to give us what we want. Our gospel is not a health, wealth and prosperity gospel. Salvation is in no shape, form or fashion by the works of the sinner. But God does promise to give his child whatever we need in this life.

Psalm 23:1: «A Psalm of David.» The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Philippians 4:19: My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

No More Offering for Sin

So first, concerning spiritual blessings, in this life, God promises the believer that he has provided all things necessary, making us righteous in Christ, whereby every born-again believer is accepted of God. We are reconciled to God by the body of Christ's flesh through death. Therefore, God promises the believer we are not required to make any more offering for sin.

Hebrews 10: 14: For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15: Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16: This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17: And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Never Forsaken

God promises he will never leave us and we shall never leave him.

Jeremiah 32:40: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Brethren, the life of godliness is to have the burden and bondage of our sins and of every kind of formal, ceremonial, vain godliness removed by God's grace. We have the promise from God in this life that we are perfect in Christ, our sins are gone, God accepts us and will never turn away from us and never allow us to turn away from him.

Food & Raiment

Thirdly, Christ promises us food and raiment in this life. We shall have food and water.

Isaiah 33:16: He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Believer, this is Christ our Lord and our Savior, our Righteousness, our All speaking:

Matthew 6:25: Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26: Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27: Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28: And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30: Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? 31: Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32: (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Believer, that is a promise for the life that now is that our Savior has made unto us. Exercise yourself unto godliness—seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. All these things you need shall be added unto you. God has given us the Bread from heaven—Christ Jesus—his only begotten Son; God has given us the Water of life—the fountain of living waters—Christ Jesus; God has clothed us in the garment of Christ's righteousness. We can be assured that God will not hold back temporal bread and water and raiment.

Comfort in Affliction

Fourthly, when God by divine power has made us godly, he promises in this life to give us comfort when we are afflicted and oppressed.

Isaiah 43:2: When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Deuteronomy 26: 7: And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression:

Psalm 107:41: Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.

Job 5: 17: Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: 18: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. 19: He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

Psalm 46: 1: «To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.» *God is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. 4 *There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy *place* of the tabernacles of the most High. 5 *God is* in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, *and that* right early.

Support to Old Age & Through Death

Also, God promises the child who he makes to pursue true godliness that he will support us even to old age and to death.

Isaiah 46: 4: And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Psalm 23: 4: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

David lived a long time. Near the end of his life he said this, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread," Ps 37:25.

Besides all of these promises, true godliness promotes every interest of the believer in this life. By seeking God and his Christ in true godliness he keeps our minds clear and gives us peace of conscience. Godliness does nothing to promote things which are bad for our health. It never prompts injury toward anyone. True godliness God gives us comfort in trial, calmness in death—godliness gives us nothing bitter to reflect on when we come to death's bed. It only affects our lives for good: from our worship of God, to our homes, to our business.

But infidelity—a life of sin in this world, a form of godliness which denies God in Christ—makes no certain promises to any sinner. It takes away all the comforts which pure religion gives in this life and burdens men with hard bondage and puts all the work of salvation into their feeble hands. It leaves men facing a dark eternity to come with no promise or hope of eternal joy.

Likewise, vice promises pleasures in the present life, but only to disappoint you here and it makes no promise of happiness in the future world.

So having these promises, God says come out from the workers of iniquity, do not envy this world, and continue with his people in his house trusting God—exercise thyself unto godliness.

Psalm 37:1: «*A Psalm of David.*» Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 2: For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. 3: Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4: Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5: Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. 6: And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

II. TRUE GODLINESS HAS THE PROMISE OF THE LIFE TO COME.

None of the promises of life to come are given us because of any work done by us—all is the gift of God through the Lord Jesus Christ and his Righteousness. Nor do any accomplishments in this life give us any promise of life to come. It is only those who continue in pure religion, created in the heart by God, looking to Christ alone, apart from our works, that God gives promises concerning the life to come.

Eternal Life & Resurrection

First, in Christ we have the promise of eternal life and of resurrection.

John 6: 54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Faith is not a one time thing—we are always coming to Christ. This promise is given to those—not who begin in faith then turn back—but to those who die in faith. If Christ is your life—Christ promises you have eternal life. And if continue in Christ in faith then Christ will raise you up at the last day.

Inheritance as Children

Secondly, because he has given us the Spirit of adoption, we have the promise of inheritance as children.

Romans 8: 17: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. 18: For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

What a precious thing it is that, by God's promise to us, we are able to look beyond the deceitful riches of this life and see that our true inheritance is with Christ in the life to come.

Hebrews 13: 5: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Immortal Body

Thirdly, we have the promise of a new immortal body, a house not made with hands.

2 Corinthians 5: 1: For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 15: 53: For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Reign with Christ

Lastly, our Savior has given us the promise of reigning with Christ.

Revelation 3: 21: To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Believer, rest all your hope on the promises of God. They are most sure and certain. God cannot lie and God will not deceive us

If we truly realized the might, the majesty, and the meaning of God's promises, how happy and content they will keep us. By this internal peace, which the Prince of Peace gives through true religion, he makes us to operate more calmly in this life. Our judgment is regulated and guided aright. Those without the peace of God are always worried over worldly things. But the believer has a peace that only God gives which puts us more at ease and settles us. So esteem with highest regard the promises of God.

2 Corinthians 1: 20: For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Amen!