

WHAT IS GODLINESS?

4-17-2022 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: **2 Pet. 3:10-13.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. One day the Lord will return.
2. How will we be found?
3. We have been given “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (**2 Pet. 1:3**).

DISCUSSION: IN THIS LESSON, WE WILL OBSERVE...

I. GODLINESS DEFINED.

A. Godliness is found **15** times in Scripture.

B. Godliness = piety - conforming to the laws and wishes of God; devoutness and moral uprightness.

1. Godliness is the result of living according to God's will.
 - 1) **Tit. 2:12** “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should *live* soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
 - 2) **Heb. 12:28** “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”
2. Godliness is the proof of our faith

C. The word godliness is not found in the O/T.

1. However, there are admonitions to obedience and godly living.
2. Enoch walked with God (**Gen. 5:24**).

II. GODLINESS IS THE DEMONSTRATION OF OUR CONVICTION.

A. First note: “There is a false godliness.”

1. **2 Tim. 3:1-7.**
2. **1 Tim. 6:3-5.**
3. **Matt. 7:15; 23:7-8.**

B. Examples:

1. **Hebrews 11** is filled with those willing to demonstrate their conviction.
2. **Daniel 3** is powerful.
 - 1) Background: Nebuchadnezzar set up an idol and required people to bow down and worship it (**vs. 1-5**).
 - 2) **Vs. 6**: The punishment.
 - 3) **Vs. 15-18**: The 3 Hebrew children demonstrated their faith in God.
3. Our conviction rises to the top in times of trials.

III. GODLINESS IS TO BE DEVELOPED.

A. **1 Tim. 4:7-8** “But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. 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.”

1. “... exercise thyself rather unto godliness...”

- 1) **Heb. 5:14.**

- 2) **Heb. 12:1-2.**

- a. “Lay aside.”

- b. “Run with patience.”

2. Godliness does not come by accident!

B. Godliness is the product of our attitude towards God. This attitude involves...

1. Fearing God: Respecting and reverencing God in all things (**Eccl. 12:13**)!

- 1) He promised to punish the disobedient (**2 Thess. 1:8; Heb. 10:30-31; Rev. 20:14-15**).
- 2) He promised to reward the obedient (**John 3:16; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 2:10**).
- 3) **Rom. 11:22** "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."
2. Properly worshipping God (**John 4:24**).
 - 1) Involves the 5 acts of worship (**SING** – **Eph. 5:19; Heb. 2:12**, **PRAY** – **Phil. 4:6; James 5:16**, **STUDY** – **2 Tim. 2:15, Acts 20:7**, **GIVE AS WE HAVE PROSPERED** – **1 Cor. 16:1-2**, and the **LORD'S SUPPER** – **Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11**).
 - 2) Which of these can we omit? Yet many omit some parts of proper worshipping God. Note **Heb. 10:24-25; James 2:10**.
3. Loving God.
 - 1) To love God is to walk with Him (**Rom. 8:1**).
 - 2) To love God
 - 3) To love God is to have proper priorities (**Matt. 6:33**).
 - 4) To love the Lord is to obey (**John 14:15; 1 John 5:2-3**).

C. How can we maintain our godliness?

1. Personal Bible Study (**2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17; John 8:32; 17:17; Psalm 119:11**).
2. Daily Prayer Life (**1 Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6**).
3. Fellowship faithful brethren (**1 John 1:5-7**).
4. Seek to teach others the Gospel (**Mark 16:15-16; 1 Thess. 1:8**).
5. Seek to restore the erring (**Gal. 6:1-2; Matt. 18:15-17**).

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Godliness is important.

1. One day this world will cease to exist.
2. Judgment will be executed upon all men.

B. Christ gave His life that we might stand justified on that day.

1. **Titus 2:11-14**.
2. **2 Pet. 3:14**.