

The Motivation of Godliness

1 Timothy 6:3-11

Introduction

Godliness should be the goal of every Christian. We should be willing to honor God with lives that please Him as He has paid such a high cost to offer us the gift of salvation. It is important to note as well that there is something of value available for each individual that lives a godly life. Godliness in the life of a believer often comes with a cost. When one incurs a cost for something, they want their investment to pay off; so it is understandable the price paid to be godly should have a benefit to the Christian as well. Spiritual riches are the benefit of godliness. There is great value in experiencing God's reality in your life. Answered prayer, His peace, power, miraculous intervention are all benefits that a committed Christian can receive and enjoy.

Our pursuit of spiritual riches is not a quest without obstacle or competition. For many of us, our desire or simultaneous pursuit of physical riches gets in the way. Things that enhance and build us spiritually often suffer because we spend our time, talents, or resources accumulating things that profit us in this earthly life alone. While we may think that the pursuit of physical riches can provide a more immediate satisfaction, our lack of attention to spiritual things will leave us poor both now and in eternity. So we have to make a priority decision. Which comes first? Your spiritual growth, development, and maturity? Or things of this world? Money, or things that money can buy, should not master the Christian or drive their decision-making.

Contentment is the partner to godliness. Hebrews 13:5-6 tells us to make sure that we are ... "free from the love of money, being content with what you have..." Contentment doesn't mean that money is a bad thing. It simply means that money doesn't determine your level of peace. Contentment is an inner sufficiency that God gives as our spiritual priorities are in order and we honor Him in our lives. True contentment is possible despite external circumstances. It is not based on whether or not things are going well or if they happen to be difficult at the moment. Contentment is a place of rest that you can have because God gives it.

In our culture, we can see what happens when people struggle with contentment. As people get extra (more than what they need to live), they have the tendency to become proud, arrogant, and selfish (1 Timothy 6:17-19). Contentment must be partnered with godliness so that physical desires do not trump or work against the priority of accumulating spiritual riches. If you have been blessed, seek to remain humble and to maintain a correct perspective. Keep godliness as your goal and contentment in your sights and spiritual riches will be your reward.

Getting Started

1. What is one message that resonated with you from today's sermon?
2. "Physical riches" are those things that we have that are more than what we actually need to live. They can also lead to a struggle with contentment. What physical "riches" tend to do this in your life?

Let's Get Personal

1. What do you think are some costs to godliness in the life of a Christian? Have you been willing to pay those costs?
2. What role does money play in your decision-making? How does this affect your pursuit of godliness?
3. Do you consider yourself to be content? If so, how do you know you have attained true contentment? If not, in what area of your life is it difficult to achieve?

Take the Next Step

1. Contentment requires humility and gratefulness for what God has given us. What will you do this week to actively work at keeping physical blessings in perspective and your spiritual riches as a priority?
2. As we conclude this series on "The Pursuit of Godliness", take time to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for how God has blessed you already (finances, job, family, health) and ask God to continue showing you the areas of your life that need to change as you pursue a life that is pleasing to Him.

Renew Your Mind

"...pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness..." 1 Timothy 6:11