Add to your faith…Godliness

Lesson for Sunday, September 14, 2025

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: Keep working on memorizing 2 Peter 1:5-7 as a class. Make it fun! Think about rewarding those who do it.

INTRODUCTION:

* Discuss: Who is the Godliest person you know? *Allow for some discussion. Ask follow-up questions…*
* We can’t really define who is Godly if we can’t define what it means to be Godly. What do you think it means to be Godly? What is required? *Allow for discussion…*
* After some people give some feedback, introduce these ideas that many won’t consider…
  + A Godly person doesn’t tolerate evil in any area – family, church, community.
  + Consider this quote: *He may be a Christian, but a man is not godly if he will not open his mouth and put the weight of his influence and life into the cause of righteousness*.
  + The point: There is a proactive aspect of Godliness.
* For the next two Sundays we will be looking at what it means to be Godly.
* Before we progress, ask yourself his question: With what you know right now, what would you have to do to be Godly?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Answering the Call of Godliness (2 Peter 1:6)
   1. It’s important to know what Peter is asking his readers to do.
   2. Peter is not calling for a socially acceptable Christianity. His original audience knew what it would cost to move to the level of Godliness.
   3. Everything Peter has written so far has brought us to this virtue.
      1. If one is to cultivate Godliness, they must be maturing in the previously mentioned self-control and endurance.
      2. Godliness is the summary of the first four virtues (virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience).
      3. It is also the bridge to the next two virtues (brotherly kindness and charity).
   4. Do you remember how Jesus answered His questioners in Matthew 22 when they asked Him what was the greatest law?
      1. Love God with all your heart and love others.
      2. The virtue of Godliness is the picture of what it means to love God with your whole heart, and it is the composite of the first four virtues.
      3. (The last two virtues are a summary of what it means to love others.)
2. Understanding Godliness
   1. “Godliness” is a term Peter uses frequently.
      1. 2 Peter 1:3 – In this verse, the term is comprehensive as it summarizes all that is important in our personal response to Christ.
      2. 2 Peter 1:6 – In this verse, the term is strategic as Peter describes what it means to have a mature relationship with God.
      3. 2 Peter 3:11-12 – In these verses, Peter is appealing to his readers to be Godly in light of the world around us and God’s future judgment.
   2. In ancient Greek language, the word “godly” was the primary word used for “religion.”
      1. A good working definition for us today would be *worship that is worthy of God.*
      2. When we describe someone as “Godly,” we are referring to someone who has true religion that is exhibited consistently in the home, the church and the marketplace.
      3. A Godly man or woman is one who has a vibrant, personal relationship with God that is evident in the way they live their life.
   3. Illustration: Think of a train that has the engine, a car with the coal for energy, followed by two more cars. (See in your book page 89.)
      1. The engine and coal represent Godliness. The first car (engine) is our commitment to virtue and knowledge. These two cars represent Godliness.
      2. The last two cars are brotherly kindness and love. Together, these are our good works.
      3. Godliness (the first two cars) is the force that pulls along the “cars” of good works.
      4. Without Godliness, we are going to get too far down the tracks of life.

APPLICATION: How are we going to become Godly? We won’t if we are not intentional. Discuss…

* Godliness is not accidental; it is intentional.
  + We will have to deal with our entertainment mindset and casual approach to Christianity.
    - We will have to put down our phones and pick up our Bibles. Our faith will not grow if we spend hours in front of a screen and only minutes before the Lord.
    - We must learn to thrive on our personal time with God. *(Lots to discuss here…)*
  + Our faith cannot be based on entertainment and experience. We must be committed to a moment by moment walk with the Lord.
* Godliness is the result of a lifetime, not the result of a day.
  + We must recognize that we become Godly day by day as we submit to God.
  + We do not make a one-time decision and suddenly become Godly.
  + We cannot allow ourselves to become discouraged in the moment and lose sight of the long haul. *(Discuss the habits we must form is we are going to move toward Godliness.)*
* Here’s the bottom line: Are we purposing in our hearts to become distinctly Christ-centered? Do we daily delight ourselves in the person of Christ?
  + Would an actual accounting of my actual, daily time spent reading the Word of God, walking with Him reveal that I am seriously seeking to know Christ and His ways?

CONCLUSION: Return to your question that you asked at the end of your introduction. What do you need to do to move toward becoming Godly? This week – make that move!