

# 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)
  - a. It's important to know what Peter is asking his readers to do.
  - b. Peter is not calling for a socially acceptable Christianity. His original audience knew what it would cost to move to the level of Godliness.
  - c. Everything Peter has written so far has brought us to this virtue.
    - i. If one is to cultivate Godliness, they must be maturing in the previously mentioned self-control and endurance.
    - ii. Godliness is the summary of the first four virtues (virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience).
    - iii. It is also the bridge to the next two virtues (brotherly kindness and charity).
  - d. Do you remember how Jesus answered His questioners in Matthew 22 when they asked Him what was the greatest law?
    - i. Love God with all your heart and love others.
    - ii. 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.
    - iii. (The last two virtues are a summary of what it means to love others.)
2. Understanding Godliness
  - a. "Godliness" is a term Peter uses frequently.
    - i. 2 Peter 1:3 – In this verse, the term is comprehensive as it summarizes all that is important in our personal response to Christ.
    - ii. 2 Peter 1:6 – In this verse, the term is strategic as Peter describes what it means to have a mature relationship with God.
    - iii. 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.

- b. In ancient Greek language, the word “godly” was the primary word used for “religion.”
  - i. A good working definition for us today would be *worship that is worthy of God.*
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. 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.
- c. 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.)
  - i. The engine and coal represent Godliness. The first car (engine) is our commitment to virtue and knowledge. These two cars represent Godliness.
  - ii. The last two cars are brotherly kindness and love. Together, these are our good works.
  - iii. Godliness (the first two cars) is the force that pulls along the “cars” of good works.
  - iv. 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 as 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!