

ADDING TO OUR FAITH: GODLINESS

2 PETER 1.6

INTRODUCTION:

1. Adding to our faith is a gradual process, but it is not a casual process. Are we acting “*with all diligence*” (2 Pet. 1.5)?
2. Why it is necessary to grow in faith? God have given to us all things. Therefore we ought to take advantage of it. (2 Pet. 1.8-10)
3. Perseverance is a critical attribute, for when we add godliness, we will suffer persecution. (2 Tim. 3.12)

I. GOD PLEASER OR PEOPLE PLEASER?

- A. Godliness is defined as the “character of conduct determined by the principle of love...of God” [ISBE]
 1. All areas of conduct require that they be performed with God in mind. (2 Cor. 7.10; 11.2; Heb. 12.28)
 2. Everything we need to be pleasing to God is revealed within the Bible. (2 Pet. 1.3; cf. 1 Tim. 6/3)
- B. Do we seek to please man or God? (Gal. 1.10)
 1. Those who please man put faith on display, yet it has no substance. (Matt. 6.2,5,16; 2 Tim. 3.1-5)
 2. People pleasers turn away from God. (John 5.44)

II. GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN

- A. **1 TIMOTHY 6.6:** “*Now godliness with contentment is great gain.*” At the end, pleasing God is all that matters. (vs. 7-9)
 1. Since we know that everything will be dissolved, we ought to conduct ourselves in godliness. (2 Pet. 3.10-14)
 2. Those who please God have no lack of gain. (Matt. 6.33)
- B. Whether material or carnal, the things of this life are temporary, but godliness is forever. (1 Tim. 6.11)

III. THE SECRET OF A GODLY LIFE

- A. There is no shortcut to godliness. (1 Tim. 4.7,8; 2 Pet 1.3)
 1. How was Timothy expected to grow? (1 Tim. 4.12-16)
 2. Godliness is not a means of material gain. (1 Tim. 6.5)
 3. A life pleasing to God is our goal. (2 Cor. 5.9)
- B. Pleasing God requires a change in the way we think.
 1. Set your minds on things above. (Col. 3.2)
 2. Have you put on the new man? (Eph. 4.21-24)

CONCLUSION: 1 TIMOTHY 2.1-3: A peaceable life in all godliness!

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS :	9:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP:	9:50AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP:	6:00PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS	7:30PM

*Worshipping
God “in Spirit
and truth”
(John 4.23)*

MAY 17TH, 2009

THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH

A proper understanding of the Bible involves *‘rightly dividing the word of truth’* (2 Tim. 2.15). Looking at context, understanding the meaning of words, paying attention to the division of covenants take time and dedication. The lack of understanding the Bible is often caused by laziness. One often is content randomly choosing a chapter to read once a week and quickly skimming it rather than carefully examining it. What is our motive for being a diligent worker? A love of the truth.

How important is it to love the truth? Paul describes those who are deceived as not possessing this love. Furthermore he describes that this love of the truth is what saves us (2 Thes. 2.10). Jesus agrees with this assessment as He tells His critics that “*you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free*” (John 8.32). Through the truth, one knows how to please God and how to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the truth, one is made free from the bondage of sin. Considering the inestimable value of the truth, Christians ought to “*buy the truth and do not sell it*” (Prov. 23.23)

When one loves the truth he will take every measure, engage every precaution, and take every moment to understand and know the truth. He will “*search the scriptures daily*” (Acts 17.11), not to verify his own preconceived ideas or to win an argument, but to grow in faith. He will add to his faith, knowledge (2 Pet. 1.5). He will do everything that he can to make sure that he has an ever increasing grasp of the truth as if his soul depends on it...because it does. CLP

CHRISTIANITY: A PROVEN SYSTEM

PHILIPPIANS 2.15

INTRODUCTION:

1. The appeal of Christianity above all other religions is that it comes with "*exceedingly great and precious promises*" (2 Pet. 1.4)
2. The validity of Christian promises is found in those who live their lives by its principles and pattern.
3. That Christianity is judged by observing those who profess it compels Paul to caution Christians. (Phil. 2.15)

I. THE PROVEN WORD OF GOD

- A. That the word of God claims perfection, although such claim has been challenged by skeptics. (Isa. 55.10,11)
- B. Yet, false doctrines have injured its claims. (Rom. 2.24)
- C. The effectiveness of the word of God is best measured by those who enact it in their lives. (2 Tim. 2.15; 3.14-17)

II. THE PROVEN SON OF GOD

- A. There is no doubt that Jesus is the Son of God. He is proven!
 1. The testimony of the Father. (Matt. 3.17; 17.5)
 2. The testimony of His works. (John 10.37,38; 20.30,31)
 3. Yet many cast doubt to the identity of Christ because of those who wear His name. (John 17.20,21)
- B. Christ is proven by those who follow in His footsteps.
 1. Those who are truly in Christ magnify Christ in their bodies. (Gal. 2.20; 2 Thes. 1.11,12; Phil. 1.20)
 2. Christ is exemplified by a life of love and service. (John 13.34,35; Mark 10.42-45; Eph. 4.31,32)

III. THE PROVEN CHURCH OF GOD

- A. When it comes to the Lord's church, God's ways work!
 1. Those who have not followed the pattern have cause harm to the church. (1 Tim. 3.15; Eph. 2.20; 1 Cor. 3.11)
 2. Some churches do not live up to their name. (Rev. 3.1)
- B. The church is proven by its membership. (2 Cor. 3.1-3)
 1. Preachers who "*preach the word*" (2 Tim. 4.2)
 2. Elders who "*shepherd the flock of God*" (1 Pet. 5.2)
 3. Deacons who "*serve well*" (1 Tim. 3.13)
 4. Members who have "*the same care*" (1 Cor. 12.25).

CONCLUSION: With faithful brethren, Christianity stands the test.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

I think it works better than radio, better than auto-dialers, better than showings of Jule Miller filmstrips, better than mailing out a bulletin, better than Dial-a-Bible-Reading, better than debates, better than cable tv.

What is it? **It's brethren not being conformed to the world.** If a church is made up of people who understand 184 current and past issues correctly, but their lives do not show superior conduct, servitude, and holiness, don't expect an auto dialer, computer, printer, broadcast antenna, or cable outlet to compensate for the failure.

When church members think like the world, dress like the world; talk like the world; and chase money and status symbols like the world, it is the world that is winning them, not the other way around.

When church members are selfish, egotistical, arrogant, and shallow, then they are not in a position to help the world to a higher plane.

If our families are splitting up, our children are dropping out, and our homes are little different from our neighbors then our "light" gets rather difficult to notice.

But if people learn self-denial (Lk. 9:23), learn submission to God and care for our neighbor (Matt. 22), learn to be servants (Jno. 13), learn to be content (1 Tim. 6:8), learn to invest in family (Ti. 2:5; Eph. 6:4; Pro. 22:6), and learn to clean out the inside of the cup, not just the outside (Matt. 23), then bright lights will shine.

"Ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that...they may glorify God" (1 Pet. 2:9-12).

"Present your bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God...and be not fashioned according to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:1,2).

We are not called simply to know some things different from the world -- we are called to rise above the world, and to "be holy" (1 Pet. 1:15). And when people become that kind of light, in the world, they become great evangelistic tools in God's service.

[Scott Smelser]