

September 11, 2022

Godliness

by Ken Weliever

“Suppose you have a sponge and a pitcher of Pepsi. If you dip your sponge in the Pepsi and squeeze it, what’s going to come out?,” asks Derrick Tuper.

“7-Up?”

“No, when you squeeze a sponge soaked in Pepsi, Pepsi is going to come out.”

Using that illustration Tuper observes, “If you saturate your mind with questionable music, videos, magazines etc. do you think that holiness, happiness and godliness will flow out?”

We live in a wicked world that constantly seeks to saturate us with ungodliness and immorality. Kevin DeYoung was right when he wrote, “The world provides no cheerleaders on the pathway to godliness.” To combat the constant flow of sights, and sounds that influence our attitudes and actions negatively, Christians must continually be working to develop the quality of godliness.

Godliness is one of the virtues Peter says that we need to add to our faith.

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.” (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Thayer defines godliness as reverence, respect and piety towards God. Vine says it means to be devout and denotes

that “piety which is characterized by a Godward attitude (and) does that which is well pleasing to Him.”

Various translations render the Greek word as holiness. Piety. Or devotion to God. One modern speech version translates godliness as “gladly letting God have his way.”

Barclay suggests that the Greek word, Eusebeia, is the closest word in the Greek language for the word “religion.” That it is an awareness of living in the presence of God. And of having the right attitude toward Him. Godliness grows out of a feeling of dependence on God and a deep devotion for His majesty and glory.

Warren Wiersbe writes that godliness “described the man who was right in his relationship with God and with his fellowman. Perhaps the words reverence and piety come closer to defining this term. It is that quality of character that makes a person distinctive. He lives above the petty things of life, the passions and pressures that control the lives of others. He seeks to do the will of God and, as he does, he seeks the welfare of others.

All of this reminds us that we cannot isolate ourselves from the world. We must live in it. But God doesn’t want the world to live in us. Instead we must insulate ourselves from its corrupting influence through godliness. And furthermore seek to influence the world by being “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” That’s godliness. William Penn put it this

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our fall meeting with Zeke Flores is scheduled for September 18-21

Gospel Meeting - Cedar Park, October 2-5

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, October 14-16

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

way. "True godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.

While godliness manifests itself outwardly, it is an inward trait. It's developed deep in the mind, heart and soul of a person who seeks its guidance. It is possible to possess "a form of godliness," while denying its power and divine source (2 Tim. 3:5). Such a person is a Christian in name only, not in reality. He has religion on the surface, but not in substance.

This week we are going to devote our posts to further exploring the implications and applications of godliness in our lives. In the meantime, take to heart this admonition.

"With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity." (Rom. 12:1-2, J. B. Phillips.)

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Karen Hallmark has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers. She had an infection this past week.

Dinah Williams is at home and continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother) is under treatment for cancer.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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