

PERSONAL GODLINESS

Introduction

Lesson 1

- Intro.** 1. Sound doctrine and Biblical practice are very important—essential, in fact.
2. However, we must not overlook the importance of **personal** godliness.

I. Necessity of Personal Godliness

A. Required. What reasons are given in Titus 2:11-15 for godliness?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

B. What are benefits of godliness according to the following passages?

1. I Timothy 4:7-8

2. I Timothy 6:6

3. 2 Peter 1:5-11

4. 2 Peter 3:7

II. Definition of Godliness

A. Godliness is *not*:

1. Mere outward acts of devotion (2 Timothy 3:5)
2. God-likeness. This idea is not far off, but it is not an exact definition.

B. Authorities on meanings of words.

1. Thayer: “Reverence, respect; in the Bible everywhere piety toward God.
2. W. E. Vine: “That piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well pleasing to Him.”
3. Emphasize “Godward attitude.”
 - a. A compass always points north, a “northward attitude.”
 - b. The Christian always points toward God.

C. In view of this definition, what would “ungodliness” be?

Note the contrast in Titus 2:11-12.

III. Importance of Personal Godliness

- A. Not accomplished by:
 - 1. Membership in the right church.
 - 2. Association with an active congregation.
- B. Judgment is personal
 - 1. Matthew 16:27

 - 2. 1 Corinthians 3:13

 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:10

 - 4. Revelation 20:13

Conclusion: Are you a godly individual? If not, you can be and the purpose of this course is to define and encourage development of that quality that will make us godly.

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Developing Personal Godliness

Lesson 2

Intro. 1. Review the definition of godliness in the last lesson. What is it?

2. In the conclusion of that lesson, we saw the necessity of godliness and were challenged to develop godliness in our thinking and in our lives.

3. In this lesson we shall see some ways of accomplishing this.

I. Recognize the enemies of godliness.

A. In the following passages, identify things that encourage *ungodliness*.

1. Psalm 10:4

2. Deuteronomy 32:15; Psalm 52:7

3. Isaiah 30:9-13

4. Romans 1:21

5. Romans 1:28; Colossians 1:21

6. Ephesians 4:18

7. 1 Timothy 4:7

8. James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16

B. Can these enemies be overcome?

II. Practice exercises that encourage a “Godward attitude”.

A. Identify such practices. What do the following scriptures suggest as a means of developing godliness?

1. Deuteronomy 31:11-13

2. Psalm 1:1-2; Joshua 1:8

3. 2 Peter 1:3

4. Psalm 32:6

5. Can you suggest other means of growth in godliness?

B. What daily habits would you suggest should be formed to encourage godliness?

1.

2.

3.

C. Will daily habits assure godliness?

Is godliness a habit?

Discuss

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The God of Our Orientation

Lesson 3

Memory Verse: “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we can serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28

- Intro:**
1. Pagans were called “godly.” Godliness toward idols degraded.
 2. Muslims claim godliness toward the God of Abraham. Misconceptions.
 3. The true God is revealed in scripture, especially in Jesus Christ. Constant study and meditation needed for accurate concept of Him.

I. GOD IS _____ (Gen. 1:27; Acts 17:24-27)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (Ps. 95:6; Is. 64:8; I Pet. 4:19)?

II. GOD IS _____ (Deut. 10:17; Acts 10:34; Col. 3:25)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (1 Pet. 1:17)?

III. GOD IS _____ (Ex. 20:5; 1 Cor. 10:22)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (Ex. 34:14)?

IV. GOD IS _____ (1 Jn. 4:8, 16)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (1 Jn. 4:19; 5:3)?

V. GOD IS _____ (Rev. 19:6; Job 42:2; Mt. 19:26)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (Acts 26:8)?

VI. GOD IS _____ (2 Chron. 2:6; Jer. 23:23-24)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (Ps. 23:4; 139:7-10)?

VII. GOD IS MAN'S _____ (Mt. 5:45; Acts 17:25,28)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (Mt. 6:26-33; Mt. 10:29-31)?

VIII. GOD IS _____ (Rom. 11:33)

A. Why should this encourage Godliness?

B. How will Godliness based on this affect our lives (Ps. 119:97-100; Is. 48:17; Rom. 16:27)?

Conclusion: Knowing God is one of the first requirements of Godliness.

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Godly Religion

Lesson 4

Memory Verse: “Having a form of godliness, but denying its power. And from such people turn away” (2 Timothy 3:5).

I. Warnings Concerning Ungodliness in Religion.

A. Matt. 15:7-9

1. What indicates that this worship was ungodly?
2. What was its value?

B. 2 Tim. 3:1-5

1. What proves this “godliness” to be only a form?
2. Is such religion practices in our day?

C. Jude 3-4; 17-19

1. What proves that these men claimed to be religious?
2. Cite 3 characteristics of those described in verse 4.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Cite 3 more characteristics in verses 17-19.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. Are such people visible on the modern religious scene?

D. 2 Cor. 11:2-4.

1. Explain Paul’s “godly jealousy.”

2. What enemies challenged the godliness of Corinthian Christians?

a.

b.

E. Col. 2:8; 2-023

1. What kind of teaching threatened the Colossians (vs. 8)?

2. What made the regulations of verses 20-22 objectionable?

II. Characteristics of Godly Religion (Contrast with above).

A. 1 Tim. 3:16-4:2

1. What are some basic facts of godliness?

2. What is said of those who deny these?

a.

b.

c.

B. In contrast with those who “turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, what does a godly view of grace require (Titus 2:11-12)?

1.

2.

C. What is “pure religion” (James 1:27)?

D. What is the focal point which unites the elect of God?

E. What is necessary for union with God (2 John 9)?

F. How does 2 Timothy 2:15 apply to this lesson?

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Godly Religion, #2

Lesson 5

Memory Verse: "...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15).

Intro: 1. In the previous lesson, we learned that ungodly people often may become quite involved in "religion."

2. Godly religion involves acceptance of the reality and authority of God, recognition of Jesus Christ as His revelation to us, and a purpose to deny ungodliness and live according to God's will as expressed in the example and doctrine of Christ.

I. Reasons Ungodly People Might Hold A "Form of Godliness"

A. 1 Tim. 6:5; Jude 11

B. Jude 14:16

C. Suggest other possible reasons.

II. What Kind of Church Would You Expect Ungodly People to Prefer?

A. What goals will they have for the church?

B. What kind of doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3-4)?

C. What kind of discipline (1 Cor. 5:1-2)?

D. What kind of worship?

E. What qualities would they most want in a preacher?

F. What kind of activities would they demand?

G. Would they be most interested in the outer man or inner man?

In "here and now" or in eternity?

III. What Kind of Church Will Godly People Demand? (Suggest some scriptures)

- A. What goals?

- B. What doctrine?

- C. What discipline?

- D. What kind of worship?

- E. What qualities will be essential in a preacher?

- F. What activities?

- G. Will they be most interested in the outer man or inner man?
 - In “here and now” or in eternity?
 - In the material building or in the spiritual building?
 - In reputation with God or with man?

Some Questions for Thought and Self-Examination

1. How will a godly person feel about a church designed by and for ungodly people?
(Consider Deut. 12:29-32)

2. What opinion will ungodly people have of such a church as is described in III?
 - Do you find yourself intimidated by their attitude?
 - Should we make some effort to accommodate their tastes?

3. Examine your own motives and goals in your choice of a church, your worship, your values. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

3. What makes fame an unworthy goal in life (Eccl. 2:15-16; 4:16)?

II. The Goal of the Godly: To Fulfill God's Purpose for Man in Life

A. For what was man created?

1. Gen. 1:26

2. Is. 43:7

3. Acts 17:26-27

4. Rom. 8:29

B. Goals of God's Son

1. John 6:38

2. Matt. 20:28

3. Luke 19:10

C. If this is our goal in life, what will be our attitude toward:

1. Pleasure

2. Possessions?

3. Prominence and fame?

Thought Questions:

1. Which of the three goals in section I do you feel is most common in our day?

2. Which do you feel is your greatest temptation?

3. What can you do to control the temptation and reinforce right goals?

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Godly Bodies

Lesson 7

Memory Verse: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable before God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)

I. The Ungodly View of the Body

A. What would an ungodly person who does not consider God think about:

1. The origin of the body?
2. The owner of the body?
3. The purpose of the body?
4. The authority over the body?
5. The future of the body after death?

B. What use would a person make of his body if his goal in life is:

1. Pleasure?
2. Possessions?
3. Prominence or fame?

C. What effect will be seen in one's appearance if his goal in life is:

1. Pleasure?
2. Possessions?
3. Prominence or fame?

II. The Godly View of the Body

A. How does the godly person view his body as to its:

1. Origin (Ps. 100:3)?
2. Owner (1 Cor. 6:19-20)?
3. Purpose?
4. The authority over it?
5. The future of the body after death (1 Cor. 15:42-44, 49)?

B. In view of all this:

1. What does the Christian do with his body (Rom 12:1)?
2. In what condition does he offer it?

3. What does he avoid (Rom. 12:2)?

How does he avoid it?

4. According to Titus 2:12, what does he deny?

How does he live?

C. Those “professing godliness” will adorn themselves (1 Tim. 2:9-11):

1. Not with:

2. But with:

3. Apparel, therefore will be:

4. It will be worn with:

5. Can you “tell a book from its cover”?

D. How does the godly person view death of the body (Phil 1:20; 1 Thess. 4:13)?

III. How Will the Ungodly and the Godly Differ in Their View of:

A. Sexual relations?

B. Abortion?

C. Drunkenness?

D. Tobacco?

E. Eating?

F. Seductive or Extravagant apparel?

G. Jeopardy of life for Christ?

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Godly Body Members

Lesson 8

Memory verse: “And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God’ (Romans 6:13).

I. Godly Eyes

A. What are some ungodly uses of the eye?

1. 1 Sam. 18:9
2. Eccl. 4:8
3. 2 Peter 2:14

B. How are godly eyes used?

1. What covenant did Job make with his eyes (Job. 31:1)?
2. Ps. 119:18
3. Prov. 4:23-25
4. Suggest other uses:

II. A Godly Tongue

A. What are some ways in which the ungodly use their tongues?

1. Exodus 20:7
2. Prov. 6:17, 19
3. Prov. 16:27-28
4. Matt. 5:22; 1 Cor. 6:10
5. Matt. 12:36
6. Eph. 5:4
7. Suggest other misuses of the tongue.

B. How do the godly use their tongues?

1. Psalm 119:172
2. Prov. 31:26
3. Matt. 5:37
4. Eph. 4:25

5. Eph. 4:29

6. Heb. 13:15

C. A godly man will be slow to speak (James 1:19)? What are some things he will ask himself before speaking?

1.

2.

3.

III. Godly Hands

A. What are some ways in which ungodly people use their hands?

1. Ps. 26:10

2. Prov. 6:17

3. Matt. 26:67

4. Matt. 5:30 (Compare with vss. 28-29)

5. Can you suggest some other ways?

B. What is the condition of a godly person's hands?

1. Ps. 24:3-4

2. 1 Tim. 2:8

C. How will the godly hands be used?

1. Prov. 31:20

2. Eph. 4:28

3. Ga. 2:9

4. Suggest other uses.

Conclusion: What other parts of the body are to be devoted to God?

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Godly Attitudes Toward Money

Lesson 9

Memory Verse: “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out (1 Tim. 6:6-7).

I. Money and Wealth Are Neither Godly Nor Ungodly

A. “Unrighteous mammon” (Luke 16:9) simply means “not righteous.”

B. How do the following passages show that prosperity is not evil?

1. Gen. 24:34-35
2. Job 42:12
3. Suggest other similar examples.

C. What is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:10)?

II. Ungodly Attitudes Toward Wealth

A. What ungodly attitudes toward money are seen in the following rich people?

1. Neh. 5:1-6
2. Amos 6:1, 2-6
3. Matt. 19:21-22
4. Luke 12:15-21
5. Luke 16:19-26
6. James 5:1-3

B. What ungodly attitudes toward money may be seen in poor people?

1. 1 Tim 6:9

What happens to those who have such desires?

2. What are some of the snares into which they may fall? (For examples, see Prov. 21:6, Jer. 22:13)

III. Godly Attitudes Toward Wealth

A. To whom do all things on earth belong (Ps. 24:1)?

B. Whom does the godly man recognize as the source of his wealth (Deut. 8:18; 1 Tim. 6:17)?

C. What instructions are given in 1 Tim. 6:17-19 to those who are rich?

1. Are they required to give up all they have so they will be poor?
2. What must they avoid?
 - a.
 - b.
3. In whom must they trust? Why?
4. What are they to do with their money (vs. 18)?
5. What are they doing when they use their money this way?

D. How do the following verses portray our giving?

1. Prov. 19:17
2. Matt. 6:19-20
3. 2 Cor. 9:6-7

IV. List Questions a Godly Person Will Ask When Thinking of Spending Money?

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

Conclusion: Is it wrong to use some of what we have for our enjoyment?

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Godly Families

Lesson 10

Memory Verse: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh 24:15)

I. Formation of Godly Families

- A. What are the greatest concerns of a godly person in seeking a marriage companion?
- B. How will the concerns of ungodly people differ?
- C. How may otherwise godly people be influenced to make wrong choices?

II. Godly Husband/Wife Relations

A. The relationship

1. What evidence of ungodliness was seen in Judah in Mal. 2:13-16?
2. Whom does a godly person recognize as a third party in a marriage?
3. What effect does this have on his attitude toward marriage?

Consider Matt. 19:4-6.

B. Wives

1. What do scriptures require of a wife?
 - a. Eph. 5:24
 - b. Prov. 31:27
2. What reasons are given for this?
 - a. Col. 3:18
 - b. Titus 2:4-5
 - c. 1 Pet. 3:1
3. What attitude is likely in the ungodly woman toward such instructions?

C. Husbands – What is expected of husbands?

1. Eph. 5:31
2. Eph. 5:25
3. Eph. 5:28-29 (implied)
Who is his model in all of this?
4. Col. 3:19

5. 1 Pet. 3:7

Why?

III. Godly Parent/Child Relations

A. Parents

1. What are some ungodly reasons for wanting children?
2. What will be the primary goal of godly parents?
3. Are godly goals important to ungodly parents?
How will they view godly parents?
How may this influence godly parents?
4. How can godly parents pass on godly goals to their children?

B. Children

1. What reasons are given for obedience in Eph. 6:1?
In Col. 3:20?
What reasons can ungodly parents give for requiring obedience?
2. What reason is given for honoring father and mother (Mt. 15:4; Eph. 6:2)?

What meaning does this have for those who are not godly?
3. Why are Christians to care for parents and grandparents (1 Tim. 5:4)?
4. If a man fails to provide for his own, what is his character (1 Tim. 5:8)?

IV. Generally

A. What is common in a godly home (Deut. 6:4-9)?

B. How will godliness affect hospitality (Lk. 14:12-14)?

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Godliness in Human Relations

Lesson 11

Memory Verse: “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14)

I. Inescapable Human Relations

A. Family – Do we have a choice about being a member of a family?

Can we escape the responsibilities of such involvement?

1. What does Matt. 10:34-37 teach about priority in our loyalty?

2. When Paul saw his duty toward God, with whom did he confer (Gal. 1:15-17)?

B. Government – Can we avoid citizenship in human government?

1. List duties we have for human government (Rom 13:1-7).

2. What reasons are given for obedience to the government?

a. vs. 1

b. vs. 2

c. vss. 3-4

d. vs. 5

3. How many of the above reasons have meaning to the ungodly?

What attitudes toward laws might be expected among the ungodly?

Is it conceivable that ungodly people might sometimes obey a law which godly people would not obey? Explain Acts 5:29

II. Voluntary Human Relations

A. Education – Do we choose where and what education we will obtain?

1. What do those unconcerned with God most desire in a school?
2. What is the first consideration of a godly individual?
3. Does godliness demand selecting a school operated by Christians?

B. Employment – Do we choose whom we will work for?

1. Should we accept the opportunity to choose our employer (See 1 Cor. 7:21-23)?
Why?

2. What are some things that would make some jobs unsuitable for one who is godly?

Does Acts 5:29 apply here too?

3. What are some things a godly person will most desire in employment?

4. How can one's job (especially yours) be used to glorify God?

5. How will godliness affect our performance on a job (Eph. 6:5-6)?

C. Marriage (Discussed in a previous lesson)

D. Clubs and Teams – Are these matters of personal choice?

1. What value can come from membership in athletic teams or other types of organizations?

2. What are some disadvantages for a godly individual?

3. Will a godly person have as much time as others do for these?

4. What stipulations should be made before joining?

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Godliness in Suffering and Conflict

Lesson 12

Memory Verse: “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12)

Intro. Many today believe that if one is living right, everything will go smoothly. It is true that godliness will prevent some of the problems which the ungodly have to face, but godly people will suffer in this world. Their response to suffering is one of the clearest evidences of their godliness.

I. Problems Godly People Suffer

A. List some common problems which godly people will escape.

1. Ex. 15:26
2. 1 Peter 4:15
3. Read 2 Peter 2:4-9 and list some whom God actually delivered from circumstances suffered by the ungodly.

Can we hope for such deliverance on occasions?

Always?

List some who suffered for the sins of others.

B. List some problems shared by everyone (godly or ungodly).

1. International and national
2. Natural disasters
3. On the job
4. In the neighborhood
5. In our personal lives

C. What may godly people expect in addition to the above?

1. 1 Pet. 4:4
2. Luke 6:22
3. Matt. 10:21-22
4. According to 2 Tim. 3:12, how universal will persecution be?

II. Human Reactions

A. What are some human responses to the problems listed in B above?

B. Does the fact that a response is human or natural make it right?

III. Divine Reactions

A. How did Jesus react?

1. What evidence do you see in Jesus or the apostles that they allowed international, national, etc. problems to distract them?
2. Why did Jesus say His servants would not fight to defend Him (John 13:36)?
3. Write out Peter's description of the example He left us (1 Pet. 2:22-23)

B. Of what nature are we partakers (2 Pet. 1:4)?

C. According to the following scriptures, how will godliness affect our attitudes toward problems and conflicts we face?

1. Matt. 5:10-12
2. Matt. 5:43-48
3. Matt. 6:25-34
4. Rom. 12:17-21
5. Phil. 4:4-7
6. James 1:2-3
7. 1 Pet. 3:13-17
8. 1 Pet. 4:12-19

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Godliness in Death

Lesson 13

Memory Verse: “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come” (1 Tim. 4:8).

I. The View of the Ungodly

A. One of the saddest paragraphs in literature is a portion of a speech made by Robert Ingersoll, a noted atheist, at his brother’s grave:

“Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of a wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the unreplying dead there comes no word; but in the night of death, hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.”

B. From this speech by an avowed “ungodly man”:

1. What did he know of the past or future of man?
2. What information did he acknowledge from beyond this world?
3. On what could he base his hope that he could see a star?
4. What value is the “rustle of a wing” which only love can hear?
5. What did he need to give substance to his hope (Heb. 11:1)?

II. The View of the Godly

A. Of Life – What do the following verses affirm about life?

1. Gen. 2:7
2. Acts 17:25-28
3. 2 Cor. 4:16-18
4. 2 Cor. 5:7-10
5. Luke 9:24-25
6. 2 Tim. 4:7-8

B. Of Death – How do the following verses depict death?

1. Job 14:14
2. 2 Tim. 4:6
3. John 11:11-14
4. 2 Cor. 5:1-3
5. Rev. 14:13

C. Of Life After Death – Of what do the following passages assure us?

1. Eccl. 12:7
2. John 5:28-29
3. 1 Cor. 15:42-29
4. 1 Thess. 4:15-17
5. 1 John 3:2

D. In contrast with the baseless groundless hope expressed by Ingersoll, the godly man has hope that is well founded. On what is it based?

1. Rom. 10:17
2. 1 Cor. 15:20
3. 1 Thess. 4:14

III. The Effect of These Views

A. What is the effect of the ungodly view (See 1 Cor. 15:32)?

B. What is the effect of the godly view?

1. 1 Cor. 15:58
2. Matt. 10:28
3. Phil. 1:21
4. 1 Thess. 4:13, 18

