

## **How Godliness Profits**

1 Timothy 4:7-8

### ***Introduction:***

- A. A word which appears frequently in the Scriptures is “godliness” (e.g., 1 Tim. 6:6, 11; Tit. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:3, 6-7). While all these passages encourage us to develop godliness, there’s another statement in Scripture which helps us to understand the benefits of godliness in our lives.
- B. A lot of people have thought of “godliness” as “god-like-ness,” and that characteristic is certainly a result of godliness, but the true meaning is more “god-ward-ness.” W. E. Vine: “To be devout, denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him.” In our text, Paul explains that godliness profits or benefits us both in the life that now is, AND the life that is to come.
- C. So, the goal we have in this lesson is to determine how Godliness profits.

### ***I. It Profits Us Materially***

- A. Not necessarily with an abundance of riches
  - 1. God hasn’t promised us that but in fact warns against it - Mk. 10:23-25
- B. Nor necessarily with a life of pleasure
  - 1. Again, God hasn’t promised this but warns against it - 2 Tim. 3:1-4
- C. But God has promised the godly that He will take care of them and provide the essentials of life, such as food and clothing - Matt. 6:25-33

### ***II. It Profits Us Physically***

- A. Bad things happen to all generally, but those who live godly will control their bodies and not be harmed by promiscuity, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs - 1 Cor. 6:19-20
- B. Also, they’ll obey the civil laws and thus be less likely to be injured or killed as a result of rebellion or disobedience - Rom. 13:1-4
- C. In general, the godly live physical lives that are pleasant and profitable - 2 Tim. 2:1-2

### ***III. It Profits Us Mentally***

- A. Some view Christianity as “anti-intellectual,” trying to keep people ignorant, but the Bible encourages the search for knowledge and wisdom - Prov. 3:1-5
- B. Of course, we must be careful that the knowledge and wisdom which we seek are true and right - 1 Cor. 1:21; 1 Tim. 6:20-21
- C. And we must remember that the best and highest wisdom comes from God - Jas. 1:5, 3:13-18

### ***IV. It Profits Us Emotionally***

- A. How?
  - 1. One way is to give us true happiness that will sustain us even in times of trial and tribulation - Matt. 5:3-12
- B. Also, godliness will free us from anxiety or worry - Phil. 4:6-7
- C. And it will bring contentment with what we have - Heb. 13:5-6

### ***V. It Profits Us Spiritually***

- A. Our spirits will profit as they’re redeemed through the blood of Christ - Eph. 1:7
- B. In addition, we profit spiritually from having the guidance and direction of God’s word - 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- C. Furthermore, this spiritual profit is not only in this life but in the life to come - 2 Tim. 4:6-8

***Conclusion:***

- A. Yes, godliness is profitable even during this life in so many ways, but most importantly it's profitable for the life which is to come.
- B. However, as we journey through this life towards eternity, WE must make the decision to develop the characteristic of godliness in our lives: 2 Pet. 3:10-11.