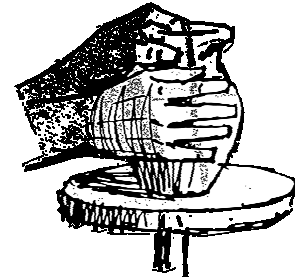


His Workmanship Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

Pursue Godliness, 1 Timothy 6:11, adapted from various sources

"But you, O man of God, ...follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses." —1 Timothy 6:11-12

A. Godly living. Among these many items which Timothy was to pursue, the central item is godliness. We need to pursue godliness to be a man of God. Godliness is "God-likeness." To be godly means to be like God, to express God. Godliness is living the abundant life that Jesus promised in Jn 10:10; it is healthy, balanced, God-oriented living. The word "godliness" comes from a Greek stem *seb-*, which meant "to have awe at something, especially something lofty and sublime." This stem is combined with *eu-* ("abundance, fullness of") to form *eusebeia*, which means in classical Greek, "awe, respect for the divine, for God's order." In the New Testament, the word is used in the sense of "awesome respect accorded to God, devotion, piety, godliness."

In other words, godliness is to live God out in our lives, "*conformed to the image of His Son,*" Rm 8:29. Paul spoke of those who "*desire to live godly in Christ Jesus,*" 2 Tim 3:12. To

live godly means that our life must be a godly life. Godliness must be our living, and this depends upon the exercise of our will. Someone who lives God out is a man/woman of God. Because he lives God out, he is like God. He bears God's likeness, so he is a man of God. A man of God has to pursue, to seek after, God-likeness.

1. We must choose to pursue godliness. It's up to each of us to determine *how* we will walk through this life. Godliness is not something a person stumbles into or acquires automatically. It must be sought out and pursued.

2. We must seek God's plan. Those who love and search for wisdom have God's promise that they will find it. Personified as a woman in the book of Proverbs, Wisdom says, "I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me" (8:17). Jesus affirmed Solomon's counsel when He said, "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened,*" Mt 7:7-8. Wisdom is something we choose to live out, not a vague attribute. It is related to the concrete, material world and is applicable to every life circumstance. God calls us to be wise in

every decision of our lives. We need His wisdom and godliness in our business dealings, health choices, relationships, parenting, finances, and our walk with Him. No area of life is beyond need, ignored by God's Word, or off-limits to His wisdom.

B. The value of godliness. What is the value of godliness, and why should we pursue it? Paul said, "*Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content,*" 1 Tim 6:6-8. The person who pursues godliness will walk in God's wisdom and feel a responsibility for his actions and use of time. He knows the value of the limited time—minutes, hours, days, months, and years—that he has been given. He is aware that those hours must be spent to produce the largest amount of good. God has entrusted us with resources that must be used to further His kingdom.

Paul went on to admonish us not to place confidence in money: "*Those desiring to be rich fall into a temptation, and a snare, and into many foolish and injurious desires, which sink men into destruction and utter ruin; for the root of all kinds of evil is the love of money; which some longing after, wandered from the*"
continued on p. 2

“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by glory and virtue,”—2 Pet 1:3

faith, and pierced themselves around with many sorrows,” vs. 9-10; Wilson’s Emphatic Diaglott version. He then counseled Timothy to flee those things and to fight the good fight of faith in the vital work of pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness—elements of godly character and the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Paul’s admonition is to “*walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory,*” 1 Thes 2:12. The person who walks in godliness is aware of how he affects the world and how the world affects him. He recognizes that every person faces three enemies in life: the world system, the devil, and his own flesh. He seeks to know God’s plans and purpose—not only for his personal life, but also for every situation involving the people around him. The Christian who walks wisely is acutely aware of the enemy of his soul, who seeks to ensnare him through temptations and enslave him through the world’s system. He lives with soberness and caution, saying “no” to anything that undermines God’s will. We cannot expect to gain victory and the great reward without a battle with our adversary, sin in all associations, the world, and weakness in our own flesh.

C. The power of godliness. But God has given us His power to overcome in this battle. “*Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might... Take unto you the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day... put on the breastplate of righteousness,*” Eph 6:10, 13-14. No man ever puts on armor unless he expects to fight. If he is a soldier of the cross, the “*sword of the Spirit*” is the greatest weapon he uses to prove his loyalty and strength; and God will protect him with truth girded about his waist, the preparation of the gospel of peace on

his feet, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and prayer.

Paul was concerned that the Ephesians should practice godliness in their everyday living. He insisted that healthy doctrine produces healthy behavior and powerful Christians; unhealthy teaching produces a lifestyle that is only a “*form of godliness.*” Both Paul and Jesus spoke of this power of godliness—and of the scriptures, 2 Tim 3:5; Mt 22:29. Paul said that some only have an outward form of godliness, an outward religion and religious belief, but a godliness which lacks reality and power. This power must be by the exercise of our will.

“[Pray] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”

—1 Timothy 2:2

Some religious people may have ordinances about how to dress in an outward form of godliness, but there is no inward power with them. We have to exercise our will in all our daily life so that we have the power of godliness. When we exercise our spirit, what we do is not a mere outward performance or form, but a display of the genuine godliness with inward power. This power, which comes from the inner exercise of our will, is a real and practical virtue with a living influence to express God and His will.

How, then, and against what, shall we exercise our combativeness that it may be rightly directed to the LORD’S will and in the service of his cause? This struggle must first begin with ourselves. We are in error if we see someone else’s imperfections and faults and then make a vigorous campaign against his weaknesses and

errors. The battle with self is the greatest battle, and we have the LORD’S Word for it that he who “*rules his spirit [is better] than he that takes a city,*” Pr 16:32, because to that extent he has learned to exercise the combativeness of true character in the right direction—in self-control.

True soldiers of the cross must endure a hardening campaign of experience through trials in the LORD’S service to come off victorious in the LORD. “*Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful,*” 1 Cor 4:1-2. This stewardship involves a responsibility of attaining godliness and of dispensing God’s grace to others, “*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God,*” 1 Pet 4:10.

D. Godliness is fearing the Lord.

The idea that best expresses godliness in the Old Testament is the expression, “to fear the Lord,” which was almost a synonym of “believer” under the Old Covenant. Someone who fears the Lord has a healthy awe and respect of God and seeks in both heart and in action to honor and love Him and not be offensive to Him. You likely have had friends who joke about God and holy matters in a way that demonstrates disrespect—maybe even some who profess to be Christians. Our honor for God shows not only in the way we joke, but by how we live. Godly people live to please God. Paul exhorted us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, “*holy and pleasing to God,*” Rm 12:2. Godliness has this attitude: “*So we make it our goal to please Him,*” 2 Cor 5:9; “*Live as children of light...and find out what pleases*” continued on p. 3



Let your faith be seen in 2014
 "I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ."
 —Colossians 2:5

Pursue Godliness, from p. 2 *the Lord*," Eph 5:8, 10. Ungodly people don't really consider or care what God thinks about their way of life. Godliness is not just avoiding sin in order to escape punishment. It is avoiding things which we know don't please God, because we love him more than we love sin, more than we love our own way. Godliness fulfills the first great commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength," Mk 12:29-30, quoting Deut 6:4. This is why godliness can only be the fruit of love for God—not an outward obedience or legalism, but an inward seeking of God in love. Godliness comes from seeking to please God, from submitting to the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit by God's word.

E. Training in godliness. Paul often used the example of disciplined athletes who are in training. "Train [exercise] yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come," 1 Tim 4:7b-8. You see, in order to pursue godliness successfully, we must be able to run the race—we must train for it, go to the gym and train. *Train* (NIV, NRSV) or *exercise* (KJV) is *gymnazō*, "to train, undergo discipline" (from which we get our word *gym* or *gymnasium*). The noun form, *gymnasia*, is in v. 8. The idea of physical training is to practice something so that you get good at it in two ways: first, your muscles become stronger; second, you develop muscle

Discipleship Here At Home

memory so that your throwing, for example, becomes accurate and repeatable. Physical training may have some value, Paul said, but spiritual training, training in godliness, is of value both in this life and the next. Are you a top spiritual athlete? Not yet, perhaps, but you are a disciple in training, learning how to love and please God—pursuing godliness.

Wearing a Harlot's Uniform

By Dave Chappelle

The girl says, "Oh, uh-uh, wait a minute! Wait a minute! Just because I'm dressed this way does not make me a harlot!" That is true, gentlemen. Just because women dress a certain way doesn't mean they are a certain way. Don't ever forget it. But, women, you must understand: that is confusing. That would be like me, Dave Chappell, the comedian, walking down the street in a cop uniform. Somebody might run up to me saying, "Oh, officer, help us! Come on. They're over here. Help us!" "Oh, hoh! Just because I'm dressed this way doesn't make me a police officer!" See what I mean? All right, fine, you are not a prostitute. But you are wearing a prostitute's uniform.

"And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. She was loud and rebellious, her feet would not stay at home. At times she was outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner," Pr 7:10-12.

God changes caterpillars into butterflies, sand into pearls, and coal into diamonds. Using time and pressure, He's working on you, too! —Rick Warren

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Christian Savarese—ear infection

Bill Dennis—recovering from fall in elevator last week

Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors

Tyler Huelsman's teacher, Mr. Hitchens—father is dying of cancer;

David Hull, a friend of **Randy Reames**—stroke; leukemia relapse; pray open to gospel

Randy's mother, **Una**, in her 80s—cancerous colon tumor removed recently

Megan Aki's friend **Christine Martella**—recovering from liver tumor surgery

Sandra Pery's sister, **Sharon Rupinen**—upper GI tests; surgery expected

Judy Sartin's aunt **Vallie Ek**, age 87—uterine cancer, heart, kidney failure; hospice; pray she returns to Lord in her last days; also **Judy's**

cousin's wife, **Lynne James**, breast cancer

Josh McDonald, a friend of **Kory Tope**, and daughter **Casey**—unwanted divorce

Mark Campbell—unstable health and housing situation due to addiction; **Forrest Corray**, Jordan's brother—addiction

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; **Rocco Sangellino Jr**;

Addison Tope; **Pat Wilkes**—asthma

Bill Dennis—heart issues

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease

Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak;

Virginia, macular degeneration; high BP

Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes

Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain

Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; severe arthritis

Judy Sartin's grandson **Tristen**—autism

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Job concerns **Linda Szymanski**

Expecting **Christina Adams** is the

proud grandmother of **Ezekiel**, born last week and weighing 6 lbs., 14 oz.



Exposing current thoughts & trends

Good Morality Is Not Why Jesus Died, by Jim Daly

The New York Times ran an interesting opinion piece last weekend: "Raising a Moral Child." It was filled with interesting advice and principles the author gleaned from various studies easily translated into practical actions parents could implement in their homes:

- Praise the character behind the action.
- Teach children to feel guilt, not shame, when they misbehave.
- Model good behavior.

But for us as believers it was incomplete. The end goal of parenting is not simply to raise a moral child. Of course we want kids who, like the author described, are "kind, compassionate and helpful." But as Christians, we are meant for more. After all, Jesus didn't die on the cross so we could be moral or manage our sins more effectively.

A Better Goal than Morality. Jesus died so we could be *set free* from sin. He gave His life to make us into new creations and God's children, no longer apart from Him. To preach anything else is to deny the gospel. Al Mohler wrote: "*We sin against Christ and we misrepresent the gospel when we suggest to sinners that what God demands of them is moral improvement in accordance with the Law. Moralism makes sense to sinners, for it is but an expansion of what we have been taught from our earliest days. But moralism is not the gospel, and it will not save. The only gospel that saves is the gospel of Christ. As Paul reminded the Galatians, 'But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.'*" [Gal 4:4-5]. That line—"we misrepresent the gospel when we suggest to sinners"—can be especially convicting to us as parents when we realize *our children have sinned*. That's why, as desirable as raising moral kids can be, that can't be our primary goal as parent Christians. Rather, we need to be concerned with showing them Jesus, the One Who will make their hearts right and Who will give them His righteousness. There's no better time to start introducing our children to the gospel of grace and salvation than today.



meets at
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Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Gospel Meeting Series

Sunday morning

• **Adult Bible class, "Pursue Soul-Filled Worship,"** Scott Kercheville

• **Sermon, "Pursue Faith that Conquers in the Storm,"** Scott Kercheville

Sunday afternoon sermon, "Pursue Models of Joy in Affliction,"

Scott Kercheville