

The Gain of Godliness

1 Tim. 6:6

Introduction:

- A. It costs to live godly (cf. Lk. 14:28).
 - 1. Everything (Lk. 14:33)
 - 2. Persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).
- B. It pays to live godly.
 - 1. Costs are really investments (1 Tim. 6:17-18; Rom.8:18; Phil. 4:8).
 - 2. A hundred-fold in this life and eternal life to come (Mk. 10:29-30)
- C. It pays off in two kinds of dividends: Peripheral and Primary.

Discussion:

I. Peripheral Dividends of Godliness.

- A. Material gain.
 - 1. The godly are promised life's necessities (Matt. 6:33; cf. Psa. 37:25).
 - 2. The Bible teaches traits conducive to business success:
 - a. Honesty (Rom. 12:17 KJV)
 - b. Industry (2 Thess. 3:10).
 - c. Courtesy (1 Pet. 3:8; 1 Cor. 13:5).
 - d. Thrift (cf. John 6:12).
- B. Physical gain.
 - 1. Jesus grew in stature (Lk. 2:52).
 - 2. The Bible teaches mental attitudes conducive to good health.
 - a. Temperance (2 Pet. 1:6) — Health problems of Drug/alcohol abuse.
 - b. Patience, love (2 Pet. 1:6,7) — Circulatory problem from impatience and hatred.
 - c. Purity of heart and life (1 Tim. 5:22) — Physical and mental problems from unbridled lust.
 - d. Cheerfulness (Phil. 4:4) — Physical problems from gloom and doom..
 - e. Not to worry (Mt. 6:25) — Problems from anxiety well known.
 - 3. The body needs rest and recreation:
 - a. The Lord's day break.
 - b. The Lord and his disciples needed some leisure (Mk. 6:31).
- C. Social gain.
 - 1. Jesus grew in favor of men (Lk. 2:52).
 - 2. The Bible teaches traits conducive to the favor of good men.
 - a. Friendliness, cheerfulness, honesty, self-control, etc.
 - b. Living good finds favor with worthy men and some ungodly ones.

II. Primary Dividends of Godliness — Spiritual gain.

- A. The remission of sins (Acts 3:19)..
- B. A new life (2 Cor. 5:17).
- C. Access to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:15-16).
- D. Joy and peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:4,7).
- E. Fellowship with the Godhead and fellow Christians (1 John 1:3, 7; 2 Cor. 13:14)
- F. Eternal life in the world to come (Mk. 10:30)

Conclusion:

- A. The peripheral gains must not become our prime motivation in serving him (cf John 6:26,17).
- B. The primary gains must be our motive while realizing that other gains are added "fringe benefits."

