



## Exactly what Does it Take to be Godly?

**Titus 2:12: (NASB) "Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age;"**

The world that we live in is tough. It is not only full of challenges to our convictions; it is full of diversions and distractions as well. We are overwhelmed with input, advertisement, chatter, emails, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, sports, entertainment, politics, work, leisure, holidays, events, traffic, weather, style, fashion, home repair, friends, family and life in general that to step away from it all and focus on pure and simple Godliness seems almost impossible. Yet, we as Christians are to pursue Godliness as a primary objective for our lives! Okay, now what? How do we do that? Stay with us as we examine the secret (well it's really not so secret, it's in the book of Titus), this formula for being Godly in an ungodly world!



### How do we live in a Godly manner in this present age?

We will be spending a lot of time in the book of Titus, which was a letter to Titus from the Apostle Paul. First of all, who is Titus? Let's summarize some commentary:

*(Source: Albert Barnes, Notes: Explanatory and Practical, 1832-72)*

The History of Titus: Of Titus nothing more is certainly known than what we find in the epistles of Paul. It is somewhat remarkable that there is no mention of him in the Acts of the Apostles; nor does his name occur in the New Testament anywhere except in the writings of the apostle Paul. From his incidental allusions to him, we learn the following particulars respecting him.

1. He was by birth a Gentile. In Galatians 2:3, he is called a Greek, and it is certain from that passage that he had not been circumcised;...

Galatians 2:3: (NASB) *"But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised."*

2. He had been converted to Christianity by the instrumentality of Paul himself....

Titus 1:4: (NASB) *"to Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior."*

3. Titus went with Paul to Jerusalem when he was deputed by the church at Antioch with Barnabas, to lay certain questions before the apostles and elders there in reference to the converts from the Gentiles, Acts 15... It is possible that he was taken with him to Jerusalem because his was a case in point in regard to the question which was to come before the apostles and elders there.

Galatians 2:1: (NASB) *"Then after an interval of fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also."*



**Rembrandt. The Apostle Paul.** c. 1657. Oil on canvas. The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA



4. After the council at Jerusalem, it seems probable that Titus returned with Paul and Barnabas, accompanied by Silas and Judas, Acts 15:22; and that afterwards he attended (to) the apostle for a considerable time in his travels and labours.

2 Corinthians 8:23: (NKJV) *"If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ."*

5. There is reason to believe that Titus spent some time with the apostle in Ephesus; for the First Epistle to the Corinthians was written at Ephesus, and was sent by the hand of Titus.

2 Corinthians 8:6: (NKJV) *"So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well."*

6. We next hear of him as being left by the apostle in the island of Crete.

Titus 1:5: (NKJV) *"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you."*

7. He was with Paul in Rome during his second imprisonment there.

2 Timothy 4:10: (NKJV) *"for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia."*



The first chapter of the letter to Titus states Paul's reason for leaving him on the island of Crete:

Titus 1:5: (NASB) *"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,"*

Paul then gives Titus guidelines for the finding of these elders:

Titus 1:6-9: (NASB) *"<sup>6</sup>namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. <sup>7</sup>For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, <sup>8</sup>but hospitable, loving*

*what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, <sup>9</sup>holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."*

An elder is an overseer as God's steward, one who takes care of goods owned by another. Titus is to find Godly shepherds to watch the flock.



## The necessity for Godly shepherds is magnified by the presence of ungodly leaders!

**Titus 1:10:** (NASB) *"For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, **Titus 1:13-14:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup> ...reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, <sup>14</sup>not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth."*

The "they" here spoken of seems to refer to those who are subjected to the deceivers and not to the deceivers themselves as exhibited at the end of verse 14 - "men who turn away from the truth."

**Titus 1:15-16:** (NASB) *"<sup>15</sup>To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. <sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed."*

A key revealing process is observing the deeds of a man - those pure in heart will produce a pure in heart attempt and even though imperfect, they are blessed - the efforts of the defiled mind will result in defiled and self-serving deeds. Intention breeds revelation (eventually!).

It is like preparing the ground in a garden, getting it ready to plant the seeds. Godliness can't flourish in an ungodly environment. It needs great care.



Our Second Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Setting the table"

To successfully prepare for a Godly environment, there must be shepherds in place who have habitually exhibited strong, stable and mature characters to thoroughly overcome the ungodly and worldly influences surrounding the true church.

## Now on to the second chapter of Titus and the key lessons of Godliness:

**Titus 2:1:** (NASB) *"But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."*

Make sure that the words you speak are wholesome enough on a spiritual level that they will accomplish something.

## What is fitting to speak?

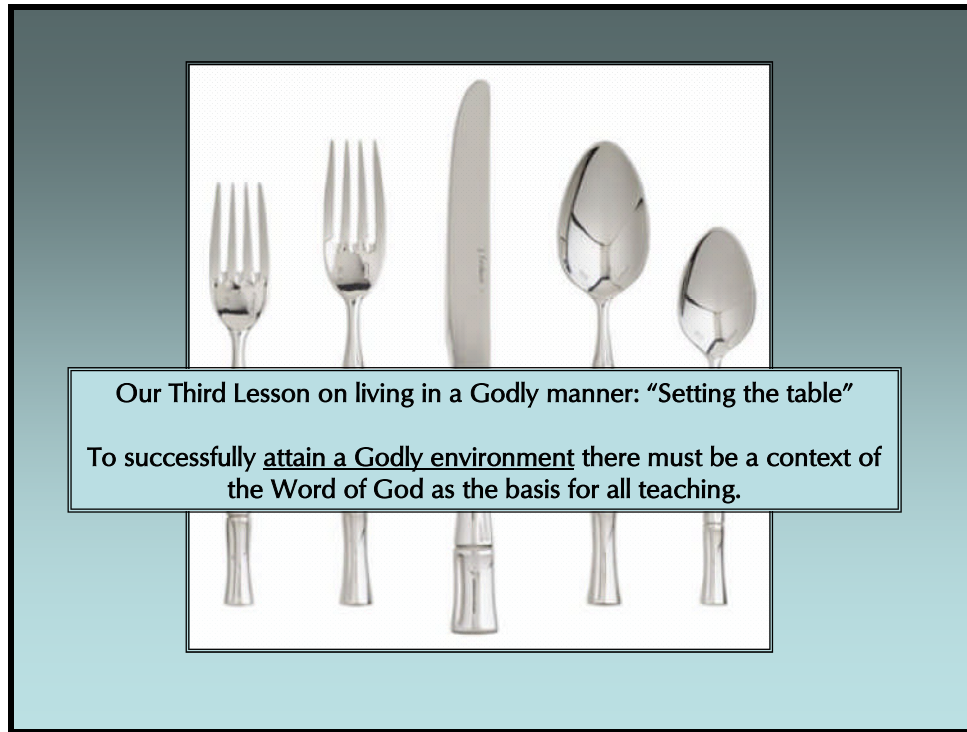
**2 Timothy 3:16-17:** (NASB) *"<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

**2 Timothy 4:1-5:** (NASB) *"<sup>1</sup>I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup>But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."*



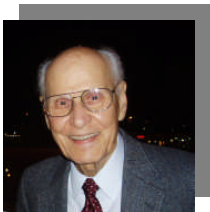
Truth has to rise above what you want to hear so you can learn what you need to hear.

**2 Peter 1:19-21:** (NKJV) *"<sup>19</sup>And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; <sup>20</sup>knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup>for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*



The Scriptures must be our basis of Godliness.

Now that the environment has Godly preparation, let's look at those in the environment:



**First the aged men - the male senior citizens, more mature church members**

**Titus 2:2:** (NASB) *"Older men are to be **temperate**, **dignified**, **sensible**, **sound in faith**, **in love**, **in perseverance**."*

**Temperate (NASB)/Sober (KJV):** Strongs #3524 nephaleos (nay-fal'-eh-os); or nephalios (nay-fal'-ee-os); sober, i.e. (figuratively) circumspect: having restraint

**1 Timothy 3:2:** *"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, **vigilant** <3524>, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"*

**Dignified (NASB)/Grave (KJV):** Strongs #4586 σεμνος semnos sem-nos'; venerable  
Greek-English Lexicon: to be venerated for character, honorable

**Philippians 4:8:** *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are **honest** <4586>, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

**Sensible (NASB)/Temperate (KJV):** Strongs #4998 sophron (so'-frone); safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion): Greek-English Lexicon: 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate



The only uses of this word are in describing examples to be followed:

1 Timothy 3:2: "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, **sober <4998>**, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

Titus 1:8: "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, **sober <4998>**, just, holy, temperate;"

Can people count on you to be strong and stable?

**Sound in Faith**: Assurance, conviction

**Sound in Love**: Agape - benevolent selfless love

1 Timothy 1:5: (NKJV) "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,"

Hebrews 11:1: (NKJV) "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

1 Corinthians 13:13: (NKJV) "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

You can't have Godliness without faith and love.

**Perseverance**: Strongs #5281 υπομονη hypomone hoop-om-on-ay' the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings

Be focused on the purpose of your Christianity.

Romans 15:5: "Now the God of **patience <5281>** and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"

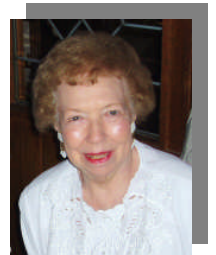
2 Corinthians 6:3-10: (NKJV) "We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much **patience <5281>**, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

The Apostle gives an example of an older man doing these things. He was utterly focused on accomplishing the mission of the Gospel.

Now the aged women - the female senior citizens:

Titus 2:3: (NASB) "Older women likewise are to be **reverent in their behavior <2412>**, not malicious gossips nor **enslaved** to much wine, teaching what is good,"

**Reverent in their behavior**: Strongs #2412 hieroprepes (hee-er-op-rep-ace'); reverent



Romans 16:1-2: (NKJV) "I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also."

Phoebe was a helper and gives a sense of a high level of integrity.



**1 Timothy 5:9-10:** (NKJV) *“Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup>well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.”*

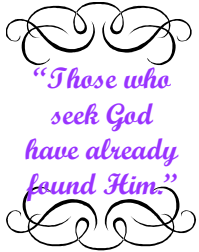

**Not malicious gossips:** Strongs #1228 diabolos (dee-ab'-ol-os); a traducer; specially, Satan prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely

This same word is translated “devil” 35 times in the New Testament!

A Godly steward will be both observant and concerned. Godliness may not be natural to us through holy conduct, holy thoughts and holy actions, so we need to examine ourselves carefully.


**1 Peter 5:8:** *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil <1228>, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”*

Be a “teacher of goodness” instead of a malicious gossip. Have your tongue focused on teaching that which is good, because you are an example.

Our Fourth Lesson on living in a Godly manner:  
“Partaking of the Meal”

To successfully proceed with Godliness from within, it is important to see its transformational effects on those who have the wisdom of years.



**To the Young Women:**  
**Titus 2:4-5:** (NASB) *“<sup>4</sup>so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup>to be **sensible <4998>**, **pure <53>**, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”*

The older women are supposed to encourage the younger women to love their husbands and their children.

This shows us that Godliness is not something that can be draped over your life to make you look good; on

the contrary, it comes from deep within and has its beginnings expressed in the most basic relationships.

As with the older men, the younger women are admonished to be sensible/ discreet.

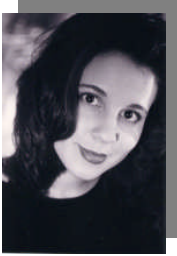
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**Pure (NASB)/Chaste (KJV):** Strongs #53 αἰσχος hagnos hag-nos’ exciting reverence, venerable, sacred



**Philippians 4:8:** *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are **pure** <53>, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

It is an interesting order here - love your family, be of a sound and self-controlled mind and be clean, exciting others to reverence.



### Continuing with the admonishing to the young women:

**Titus 2:5:** (NASB) *"to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored."*

The focus is to keep the home environment one of Godliness. This principle is still relevant today, even though women often work outside the home.

**Proverbs 31:10-21:** (NASB) *"<sup>10</sup>An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. <sup>11</sup>The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. <sup>12</sup>She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. <sup>13</sup>She looks for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight. <sup>14</sup>She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. <sup>15</sup>She rises also while it is still night and gives food to her household and portions to her maidens. <sup>16</sup>She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. <sup>17</sup>She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. <sup>18</sup>She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night. <sup>19</sup>She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands grasp the spindle. <sup>20</sup>She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. <sup>21</sup>She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet..."*

**Ephesians 5:22-24:** (NASB) *"<sup>22</sup>Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup>But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything."*

There is a marvelous lesson here for young Christian women. How many people search for a way to make their lives exciting and meaningful? How many people spend their efforts ever searching and never finding? Here the Apostle is showing the way to a vital and exciting life! It is the way of Godliness. It is in this way all of one's desires can be fulfilled, because these young women have the opportunity to love and build up their families. They also have the opportunity to do the will of God and thereby to be obedient to His holy way.

### Now, on to the young men:

**Titus 2:6-8:** (NASB) *"<sup>6</sup>Likewise urge the young men to be **sensible**; <sup>7</sup>in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, **dignified**, <sup>8</sup>sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."*



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**Romans 12:1-3:** (NASB) *"<sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup>For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to*



think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have **sound judgment <4993>**, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."

"...in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds," King James says, "a pattern of good works." The word for pattern carries the thought of a figure formed by an impression, like a stamp or a King's wax seal.

**Galatians 6:7-10:** (NASB) <sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup>Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. <sup>10</sup>So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

"...with purity in doctrine:"

**2 Timothy 2:11-19:** (NKJV) <sup>11</sup>This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. <sup>12</sup>If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, he also will deny us. <sup>13</sup>If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. <sup>14</sup>Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. <sup>15</sup>Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. <sup>16</sup>But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. <sup>17</sup>And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, <sup>18</sup>who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. <sup>19</sup>Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.""

There is strength in the admonition given to the young man, Timothy. Know why you believe what you believe - prove it for yourself.

Dignified: Strongs #4587 σεμνοτης semnotes sem-not'-ace: the characteristic of a thing or person which entitles to reverence and respect, dignity, majesty, sanctity

Respect is drawn automatically to the dignified.

"...sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."

**Matthew 5:33-37:** (NKJV) <sup>33</sup>"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; <sup>35</sup>nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

A young man seeking Godliness should be clearly focused on saying those things which are uplifting and edifying. Our words ought to reflect God's will and His word. The mission of Titus was to put that in place. Godliness is built on integrity.




**Now, on to Servants:**

**Titus 2:9-10:** (NASB) <sup>9</sup>Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup>not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect."

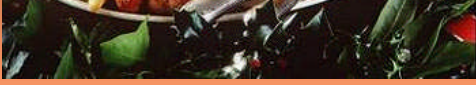
Thrive in a spiritual manner in the context in which you live.





Our Fifth Lesson on living in a Godly manner:  
"Partaking of the Meal"

To successfully perpetuate Godliness from within, we, no matter what our station in life is, must seek the very foundation of human goodness and integrity so as to build upon it with a view to please God. All other aspirations will fall away if this foundation is secured and this motivation is adopted.



**Now the conclusion:**

Titus 2:11-12: (NASB) *"<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup>instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,"*

We are told to live sensible and soberly! Some form of this word was used in the admonishing for the older men, young women and young men.

Hebrews 2:9: (NASB) *"But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."*

Romans 6:4-6: (NASB) *"<sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;"*

Romans 15:1-6: (NKJV) *"<sup>1</sup>We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." <sup>4</sup>For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. <sup>5</sup>Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

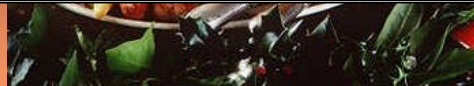


**1 Timothy 4:6-11:** (NKJV) *"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. <sup>7</sup>But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. <sup>10</sup>For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. <sup>11</sup>These things command and teach."*



Our Sixth Lesson on living in a Godly manner:  
"Partaking of the Meal"

To successfully perfect Godliness from within, we AS A BODY, realizing the gift of Jesus as the Ransom for all, must apply his character to our own. We must have his priorities, his devotion, his focus, his discipline and his heart within us, so as to attain unto this privileged calling that has found us.



**Titus 2:13-15:** (NASB) *"<sup>13</sup>looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, <sup>14</sup>who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. <sup>15</sup>These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you."*



Our Seventh Lesson on living in a Godly manner:  
"Partaking of the Meal"

To successfully protect Godliness from within, see its value, speak its value and stand firm for its value!



*Exactly What Does it Take to be Godly?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*