

The Pursuit of Godliness | 1 Timothy 4:6-16

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Godliness Begins With Conviction

1. Teaching

2. Training

- a. "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable." (1 Corinthians 9:25)
- b. Godliness is "the beginning, middle, and end of Christian living." (John Calvin)
- c. "I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8)
- d. "The result of all this godly training will be a godly life. By themselves, acts of Christian devotion do not guarantee godliness, which is a matter of the heart. By faith and the Holy Spirit, these spiritual exercises produce spiritual fruit." (Philip Ryken)

3. Trusting Jesus

Godliness Bears Fruit

1. Proclamation

2. Example

- a. "Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death." (Proverbs 7:25-27)

3. Stewardship

- a. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Godliness Involves Keeping Watch

1. Vigilance