

Godliness Pays

Dub McClish

The Bible constantly exhorts its readers to godly living. The worldly-minded ridicule godliness, believing it only means hardship and deprivation. The Bible says it pays: "godliness is profitable to all things ... is great gain" (1 Tim. 4:8; 6:6). Millions who have tried it through the centuries know it is so. How does it pay?

MATERIALLY. It is hypocrisy to appear to be godly merely for hope of material profit (John 6:26-27). However, when one makes God's kingdom and God's way the most important thing in his life, all of the things of life that one needs are promised him from God (Matt. 6:33). The very principles of godliness taught in Scripture contribute to prosperity. They include honesty and integrity (Rom. 12:17), industry (1 Thes. 4:11), good manners and appropriate behavior (1 Cor. 13:5), economy and thrift (John 6:12-13).

PHYSICALLY. A life that follows God's Word even benefits us physically (2 Pet. 1:3). It urges us to purity of life and body and warns us not to do things destructive to the body (1 Cor. 3:17; 2 Cor. 7:1). It counsels us to replace worry with cheerful optimism (Matt. 6:25; Phil. 4:4). All practices that are physically harmful (e.g. drunkenness, tobacco addiction, misuse of other drugs, sexual sins, envy, malice, anxiety, gluttony, etc.), are frequently condemned, either in name or principle, in God's Word.

SOCIALLY. Jesus grew "in favor with men" (Luke 2:52) and none has ever been as godly as He. Godly persons have traits that even the ungodly admire. These include strong convictions fearlessly voiced, self control, unwavering honesty, compassion, meekness, fairness, and love, the most essential of all social graces.

SPIRITUALLY. Here godliness brings its greatest rewards. When one does what God teaches him to do to begin living a godly life, his sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38). This makes him a "new creation in Christ" (2 Cor. 5:17). He is enabled to approach God's throne boldly (Heb. 4:16) and he attains a peace that the ungodly cannot comprehend (Phil. 4:7). The wonderful blessing of fellowship with God's people is his (Heb. 13:1). All of these are rewards of godliness while we live here, but the greatest is that which is to come — eternal life with God and Christ and all of God's faithful children of all ages (Rom. 2:7; 6:23; 1 John 2:17). We dare not grow weary in godliness and fall by the wayside, for we shall reap the eternal reward only if we faint not (Gal. 6:9). Yes, godliness pays both for now and forever (Mark 10:29-30)!

- via *The Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL

If you went on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? - Author Unknown
- Submitted by Ed Wiersbicki -

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To David Malcomson & family at the passing of David's uncle, George Sprague (age 97) in Pittsburgh.

COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY at about Noon at the Multipurpose Building. All are invited to come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

DIRECTORY UPDATES: Linda Parkes, 159 S. Surry Road, East Liverpool, OH 43920. Phone: (330) 386-6208. Morgan Haight, 23 Stayman Road, Chester, WV 26034. Phone: (304) 564-4265.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Ladies are invited to come and participate in this labor of love to help make stuffed bears for kids.

MEN'S LEADERSHIP CLASSES: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. All men are invited and urged to attend this class.

STUDY ON REVELATION: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., except the last Wednesday of the month which will be song practice.

FRIDAY NIGHT SING: March 17th, 7:00 p.m. at the National Road Church of Christ, Wheeling, WV.

GOSPEL MEETING: March 19-23 -----Hanoverton ----- Andy Robison

LADIES DAY: Saturday, April 1st at the Coraopolis, PA Church of Christ. "Dotting Your i's" with speakers Karen Taylor and Betty Smith. Registration: 10:00-11:00 a.m. Lunch provided.

SUMMER CAMP APPLICATIONS: On the desk in the foyer.

PANTRY: Condiments.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Eva Stefl, Pat Allison, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Ruth Wright (Sharon Williams' sister). Charles Leroy Burdine, Jr. (Willard's brother) P.O. Box 59, Smithfield, WV 26437. Laverna Richards (Twila Adamson's sister): 340 Pittsburg Landing, Summerville, SC 29485. Tasha Hall Beatty, 1034 Pyramus Rd., Chester, WV 26034. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller, Jim Mick, **CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:** Ella Beagle. **WORTHINGTON NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER,** PARKERSBURG, WV, Margie Logston.

FEELINGS OF OTHERS

Everyone of us knows how painful it is to be called by malicious names. To have one's character undermined by false insinuations, to be over reached in a bargain, to be neglected by those who rise in life, to be thrust on one side by those who have stronger wills or stronger hearts. Everyone knows, also, the pleasure of receiving a kind look, a warm greeting, a hand held out to help in distress, a difficulty solved, a higher hope revealed for this world or the next. By that pain and by that pleasure let us judge what we should do to others.

- Bulletin Digest -

Joy Is My Strength

The joy of my salvation is my strength.

It is a joy ...
that makes my heart glad.
that sets me apart from others.
that witnesses to the world.
that makes me want to sing and shout!
that delights in spiritual things.
that causes me to smile at the future.
that directs my gratitude, praise, and
adoration toward heaven.
that strengthens my spirit.

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