

YEAR OF GROWTH

GODLINESS

WEEK 1

EXPLANATION

Definitions:

The Greek word for 'godliness' (*eusebeia*) means "piety, reverence, or respect." Vine defines it to mean, "to be devout, ...characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him." It is used 15 times in the New Testament – once in Acts (3:12 as *holiness*), 2 Timothy (3:5), and Titus (1:1). The remaining uses of the word are found in 1 Timothy and 2 Peter.

The Hebrew word *chasiyd* is translated as "godly" three times (also as "saints," "holy," "merciful," and "good"). It is defined as "pious, kind, or faithful." Interestingly, both the Hebrew word for God (*elohim*) and the Greek word for God (*theos*) are sometimes used to express godly attitudes or actions. On those occasions they are translated as "godly" or "godliness." The word 'godliness' in 1 Timothy 2:10 is actually a combination of *theos* (God) and *eusebeia* (piety).

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the previous lessons concerning faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, and patience. It is in our faith and to our faith that we are to add godliness. Think upon the definitions of the words that God used to describe godliness. Pray for wisdom in understanding this characteristic. Pray for strength as you prepare for this study.

Day Two – Monday

2 Timothy 3:1-7

Paul describes those who have a "form of godliness" but live in denial of its power. In simple terms, they know what the Bible teaches about godliness but do not allow that truth to change their hearts or their deeds. "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him" (Titus 1:16). Godliness involves both the attitude of heart and the actions of life.

Day Three – Tuesday

1 Timothy 3:14-16

Paul explains the "mystery of godliness." God was manifest (made known; literally, rendered apparent) in the flesh. In other words, Jesus is the embodiment of God (John 1:1-4, 14). In His life He demonstrated true godliness by showing how God thinks, feels, sees, acts, and loves. Thus, we learn that godliness is actually "God-like-ness" – it means to be like God!

Day Four – Wednesday**1 Timothy 6:3-5**

Paul writes of those who fail to understand true godliness. They suppose that gain is a valid measure of one's godliness. In other words, the more followers one has, the more wealth one possesses, or the more influence one projects determines how godly he or she is. In fact, Paul declares that they are destitute of the truth. The doctrine of God – the Gospel of Christ – is according to godliness. God's Word causes one to be more like Him in thought and deed. This is the true measure of godliness. Anything else is error.

Day Five – Thursday**Matthew 19:16-22**

Closely connected to godliness is the characteristic of goodness. To the rich, young ruler, Jesus said that there is none good but God. In His very nature, God is good. Likewise, God alone defines what is good (cf. Isaiah 5:20). Thus, when one is like God, he will do that which is good. In truth, he will be good. Goodness grows out of godliness.

Day Six – Friday**2 Thessalonians 1:6-12**

God's goodness is fulfilled in faithful Christians. When the Lord returns, He will be glorified in His saints – those who believe and obey the Gospel. Likewise, the saved will be glorified in Jesus. This is the result of God's fulfilling "all the good pleasure of His goodness." When Christians do good, they are being like God. This sets an example to others, brings glory to God, and prepares us for the Day of Judgment.

Day Seven – Saturday**Acts 10:34-38**

Another characteristic closely related to godliness is righteousness. Often, righteousness refers to legal justification from sin. However, it also includes "right living" – doing what is right by living in submission to God. God accepts those who work righteousness. Like Jesus, they go about doing good. By following His example, they become more like Him; thus, they practice godliness. Righteousness and goodness are produced by godliness.