

## Why It Pays To Live Godly And Costs Not To

We all know the advantages in being saved but what about the advantages of living godly in Christ Jesus after we are saved? This is something every Christian should know for there are many.

**Ephesians 1:4-5: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,**

The choosing or electing in vs. 4 was not for salvation but for the ones he adopted in vs. 5 to be holy and without blame before him in love. God chose his adopted children to be holy and without blame. He chose them to be that way and live this way before the foundation of the world. The personal conduct of God's people today was determined before Genesis 1:1.

**Ephesians 5:25-27: Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

Christ wants his church to be clean and holy and without blemish. His will is for them to be free from moral and spiritual spots and wrinkles and blemishes. One reason he gave us his word was to wash us and cleanse us and make us holy and without blemish. If you read the word and obey it often it will give you a spiritual and moral bath.

**Titus 2:11-12: For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.**

The grace of God that saves us in verse 11 also teaches us how to live after we are saved by grace. Sinners saved by grace should and can deny ungodliness, worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.

It's obvious from these verses in Ephesians and Titus that it's God's will for his people to live holy, godly and righteous lives. In this booklet I will list the advantages and blessings of living holy and godly lives and the disadvantages and costs for not living godly and holy. The fact that God told us to live this way shows us we can for he never told us to do something we can't do. To help and aid and assist us to live this way he put his Spirit in us to show us how. He gave us a new nature to strengthen us and his word to cleanse us when we get defiled. Every Christian in the world can live according to Titus 2:12 and what I want to show you is that it pays to live godly and holy and costs not to.

## It Keeps Us In Fellowship With God

**1 John 1:4-7: And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

According to these verses fellowship with God is conditional upon our walk or personal conduct in this world. If we walk in the light, that is if we live godly and holy lives we have fellowship with God but if we don't we lose that fellowship. Fellowship implies harmony, communion, friendship, and oneness with someone. When you are in fellowship with God you are in harmony with him, communion with him, friendship with him and oneness with him.

Relationship with God as sons is one thing, but fellowship with him is another matter. In Ephesians 5 the church is the wife of Christ because we are married to Christ according to Romans 7. But you can be married to someone and not have fellowship with them. I have known people who were married but there was little fellowship and harmony between them. They fought like cats and dogs.

All saints are married to Christ but not all saints have fellowship with him. Fellowship is broken when one party offends the other. Our sins offend God and they grieve and quench his Spirit and as long as they go un-confessed, fellowship and harmony between you and God is broken and will stay that way until you confess and forsake the sin that offends him. And the worst place for a Christian to be in this life is out of fellowship with the God who saved them. As long as you remain out of fellowship you are robbed of the joy of your salvation like David. (Psa. 51:12)

John wrote these words about fellowship with God he said: ***that your joy may be full.*** The greatest joy a Christian can have in this life is the joy of being in fellowship and harmony with God and the most miserable time you will spend in this life is the time you spend out of fellowship with him.

### **It Makes Us Meet For The Master's Use**

The aim of every Christian should be for God to use them. Here is what it takes.

**2 Timothy 2:19: Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**

**20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. (People and works)**

**21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

**22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

The word “meet” in verse 21 means suitable, proper, becoming and qualified. But how do we become meet, suitable, proper, becoming and qualified for the masters use?

By departing from iniquity in vs. 19

Purging ourselves from dishonorable works and men vs.21

Following after righteousness, faith charity and peace vs. 22

This is what it takes to be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master’s use. People say I want God to use me. Here is what it takes to qualify and to be meet and suitable. God uses clean vessels.

## **Living Godly Now Will Be Rewarding Later At The Judgment Seat Of Christ**

**2 Corinthians 5:9-11: Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.**

This is God’s summons for us to appear in his courtroom. We all have an appointment with judgment. There is a court date in our future. God will judge both the good and bad works we have done in these bodies since we were saved. If this is so, wouldn’t it be wise to live as godly and holy as you can in this life? Wouldn’t it be wise to live as if we were going to stand before the Judgment Seat Of Christ today?

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

The works we do in this life will be under review at the Judgment Seat Of Christ. God will reward the good and penalize the bad. If this is true, then wouldn’t it be wise to live as godly and holy in this life so that when we are judged we will be rewarded and not penalized? God will reward the spiritual in that day who live godly and holy in this life, but he will penalize the carnal who walk after the flesh in this life.

Your works matter to God for our outcome at the Judgment Seat Of Christ is determined by our conduct and works and faith right now. If that is true will you be rewarded or penalized in that day?

## **Living Godly Will Save You Now From Chastisement**

**1 Corinthians 11:29-32: For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge**

**ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.**

These verses tell us:

That God does not overlook our sins as some think.

That God chastises saints who are forgiven. Forgiveness does not exempt us from chastisement.

The chastisement can come in many forms.

But chastisement can be avoided by two ways: Live a godly and holy life and you will not be chastised. Judge and confess your sins to escape chastisement or further chastisement. The easiest way to be free from chastisement in this life is not to commit the sins that bring chastisement in your life. This is a very good reason to live a godly and holy life.

### **Living Godly Is A Sign Of True Faith And Salvation**

**James 2:17-19: Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.**

What James is saying is faith demonstrates it is real and genuine by works, such as living godly in Christ Jesus. Works are not infallible for a person could have works but no faith such as the Pharisees. But just because there are people like the Pharisees today who have good works but no faith does not negate the principal that true faith is seen in our works. It only stands to reason that if a person has been saved by the grace and power of God it will be demonstrated in their lives by their works.

For example:

The Thessalonian Saints

**1Thessaloinains 1:9: For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God:**

Paul knew they had turned to the Lord. How did he know this? Because they turned from idols to serve the living and true God. Their works vindicated their faith.

The Ephesian Saints

**Act 19:18-19: And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver.**

The faith of the Ephesians was clearly seen by their works when they destroyed their idols and burned their satanic books after they were saved. Faith is invisible and the only way it can be seen is by works. You can say you have faith but if you have no works to back it up, it makes the rest of us wonder if it's true or not.

### **It Causes Men To Glorify God**

**Matthew 5:16: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Good works such as godly living causes men to glorify God. Paul is an example of this. He wrote in Galatians 1:21-24: **Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me.** They knew Paul before and after he was saved. When they saw the tremendous change in his life they glorified God. One of the best testimonies of salvation by grace is a life changed by grace. They knew how wicked and vile Paul was before he was saved and when they saw the change in him after he was saved they were amazed and gave God the glory.

### **It Enhances The Possibility Of Our Prayers Being Answered**

**Psalms 66:18-19: If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*: *But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.***

What does iniquity in our heart do? It keeps God from hearing the voice of our prayers.

**1 John 3:22: And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.**

Notice that God answers our prayers if we keep his moral commandments (Rom. 13:8-10) and do the things pleasing in his sight.

A man had two sons, one was obedient the other rebellious. They both ask him to give them something. Which one has the advantage over the other? Which one is more likely to get what he asks for? It's obvious, the one who obeys him and does the things that are pleasing in his sight.

### **Conclusion**

**Psalms 139:23-24: Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***

Most business hire outside auditors to come in and search their books to see if they can find any mistakes or errors. David asked God to take an audit of his heart and thoughts to see if there some wicked way in him so he could get it right. He did not want it in his life. He asked God to show it to him so he could confess and forsake it.

We need to do the same. Pray this Psalm as a prayer and if God reveals to you some wicked thing and sin in you, then confess it and forsake it. It pays to do it and will cost you if you don't.

Pastor Art Watkins  
Codan Bible Church . Codan Alabama  
Web site: Codan Bible Church.com