

Daily Living – Living A Godly Life
I Tim. 4:6-8

Thesis: To encourage us to live a godly life.

Introduction:

- A. While physical exercise is good, and something that most of us need to do more of, spiritual exercise is much more important.
- B. God tells us that we should live a godly life.
 - 1. In our text, Paul tells us how we can live that godly life.
 - 2. The challenge is not is knowing what God wants from us, but rather the challenge is in doing what God wants us to do.

I. To live a godly life we must reject that which is false (4:7).

A. Paul warns Timothy about those who were teaching false doctrine.

- 1. Paul specifically mentions that we are to “reject profane and old wives’ fables.”
 - a. According to Strong’s, a fable is “a tale, i.e. fiction.”
 - b. It is something that is false and cannot, by definition, be true.
- 2. Paul constantly warns Timothy about following after fables.
 - a. **I Tim. 1:3-4** - As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, {4} nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.
 - b. **II Tim. 2:16** - But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.
 - c. These fables and idle babblings are useless to the Christian.
- 3. Paul also takes it a step further when he warns Timothy about those who teach this false doctrine.
 - a. **I Tim. 4:1-3** - Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, {2} speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, {3} forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.
 - b. **II Tim. 4:3-4** - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; {4} and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

B. Today, if we are going to live a godly life, we must reject that which is false.

1. False teachers are everywhere.
 - a. **Titus 1:10-11** - For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, {11} whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.
 - b. **II Pet. 2:1-3** - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. {2} And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. {3} By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.
 - c. **II Pet. 2:12-17** - But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, {13} and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, {14} having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. {15} They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; {16} but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. {17} These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.
2. The point is that there are false teachers in our world today.
3. In order for us to be godly, we must reject that which is false.

II. To live a godly life, we must exercise ourselves toward godliness (4:6-7).

A. As we reject that which is false, we must hold to that which is true.

1. Paul had already instructed Timothy to teach that which was true (4:6).
 - a. Paul wanted Timothy to teach the brethren concerning those things that are true.
 - b. **II Tim. 2:2** - And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
2. Throughout the New Testament, we read of the importance of holding to that which is true.

- a. The only way to know that something is false is to know the truth.
- b. **I Thes. 5:21** - Test all things; hold fast what is good.
- c. **Heb. 5:12-14** - For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. {13} For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. {14} But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

B. True godliness is applying the word of God to our lives.

- 1. Paul refers to bodily exercise.
 - a. It is easy to know what it takes to lose weight.
 - 1) Doctors have made millions upon millions of dollars in telling people how to lose weight.
 - 2) To lose weight, we must burn off more calories than we take in.
 - 3) In other words, eat healthy and exercise.
 - b. While this is simple in theory, it is difficult in application.
 - c. The same is true for godliness.
- 2. In the same way, it takes time and effort for one to be godly.
 - a. While the process of becoming godly begins at a certain point, it is something that takes time to attain.
 - b. It does not happen overnight.
- 3. Godliness comes only from the word of God.
 - a. **I Tim. 6:3** - If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,
 - b. **II Tim. 2:15** - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - c. **II Pet. 1:3** - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
- 4. Godliness is something that we must work towards.
 - a. Notice that Paul tells Timothy, “exercise yourself toward godliness” **(4:7)**.
 - b. **I Tim. 6:11** - But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

III. The reason we live a godly life is because it is profitable for this life and the life to come (4:8).

A. Living a godly life is profitable for us while we are here on this earth.

1. By living a godly life, we know that we are pleasing to God.
2. By living a godly life, we know that God will provide us with the things of this world that we need to live.
3. Mt. 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

B. Living a godly life is profitable for us for an eternity.

1. I Pet. 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
2. II Pet. 1:3-4 - as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, {4} by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
3. II Pet. 3:11-12 - Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, {12} looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Conclusion:

Ps. 4:3 - But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; the LORD will hear when I call to Him.