Topic: Godliness has value for all things – Part 1

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Introduction

Godliness is the quality or practice of conforming to the law and wishes of God. It means to be committed to God, and be devoted to your religious duties as a Christian. Godliness can be described as moral uprightness and holiness that give rise to a personal attitude toward God that prompts the actions of acceptance by the heavens. To be wise is to live in godliness and belief in Almighty God; by having reverence for His character and laws. You can only claim to be godly if you are obedient and respect God; which means, godliness is the reverent awareness of God's sovereignty over every aspect of your life, and the attendant determination to honor Him in all your ways.

Godliness can be described in the Biblical context; as a positive way of life influenced by God and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, all Believers must live a godly life during their lifetime by practicing virtue and avoid sin. Godliness is living a fruitful and obedient Christian life, and it is one of the essential qualities that must be added to faith before one can be admitted into eternal glory.

The best thing that can happen to mankind is to imitate his/her Creator; so, it is important for humans to emulate God by behaving in godly manners throughout their existence. Hence, Christians must strive to possess this indispensable quality called godliness; without which no one will enter the kingdom of heaven. For this reason, it is only those who behave like our heavenly Father during their lifetime that will rule and reign with Him in His eternal kingdom. Whoever fails to behave in godly manner will never have the opportunity to be at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Jesus Christ the embodiment of godliness: God the Father looked down from heaven on the human race, to see if anyone was wise enough to conduct himself/herself in godly ways and looked to Him for assistance; but He found none. All are crooked and corrupt; not one of them does right. Humanity has wandered away from their Creator; together everyone has become evil, and they have become rotten to the core; not even one person does good things. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, "God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Every one of them has turned aside; they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one." Psalm 53: 2-3. Are you one of the backsliders? Make today your turning point, and mend your relationship with your Maker. Since no godly person was found; God the Father, sent God the son, to come and teach mankind about godliness; in order for us to inherit His glorious kingdom.

Jesus Christ our Lord who is the source and embodiment of godliness came into the world. Christ is the only Supreme Being who is the perfect representation of godliness and He is the living expression of godliness in a visible form. Jesus Christ is also the source of godliness; because without Christ, there will be nothing called the Christians, or godliness, or faith.

We need to know the mystic secret of godliness: God was made visible in human flesh; justified and vindicated in the Holy Spirit; He was seen by angels; preached throughout the nations of the world; people across the globe believed in Him and He was taken up in glory to heaven.

The mystery of godliness and the hidden truth underlying our Christianity faith can be simplified as: Christ the source and embodiment of godliness came to this world as a Man. He was pure in His spirit and the Holy Spirit proved that He pleased God, due to His godly conducts. The Bible testified to this fact by saying, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached

among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory." 1 Timothy 3:16. Do you believe in Christ or something else? Are you practicing godliness? If you want to be taken to heaven in glory, live a Christ-like life.

Jesus also confirmed that He is the personification of godliness; by saying "... I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6. Since Jesus Christ is the epitome of godliness; it can be deduced from the passage that without godliness humans can neither please God nor come into His presence. Therefore, Christians must add godliness to their faith in order to be worthy of the kingdom of God.

Humans are not practicing godliness

Humans are not practicing godliness; instead they are practicing ungodliness. Most people on earth are ungodly; and ungodliness has dominated every aspect of our life. Mankind has forgotten that without godliness our worship is in vain; without godliness our fasting and prayer are an abomination to Almighty God. Humans need to understand that without godliness our offerings and sacrifices will not be acceptable to God. This is a wake up call for humanity to start conducting ourselves in godly manners, before it is too late.

Few godly people are left in the world: Nowadays godly people are very rare in the world. People across the globe prefer a lustful and sinful lifestyle, to Christ-like life. The principled and godly people are disappearing at an alarming rate from the human race. The good and faithful people have been turned to outcasts; while the honest people who are loyal to God have been silenced by draconian laws or the authorities in their countries. Today, dependable and trustworthy people can no longer be found everywhere, and true Believers that are left on this terrestrial ball are few. The Book of Psalms sounded the warning by saying, "Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among

the sons of men." Psalm 12:1. Despite the fact that mankind is not practicing godliness; people still have the audacity to question and insult Almighty God who created them; because of their situations.

Stop teaching contrary doctrines: It is time for Churches to stop teaching contrary doctrines. Any doctrine that contradicts the sound teaching of Jesus Christ; or inconsistent with godliness, is a false doctrine. Christians should beware of the preachers whose sermon doesn't agree with the messages of Christ; or oppose godliness. Do not be fooled; any precept that is challenging the true words of our Lord Jesus Christ is a satanic doctrine, and whatever teachings that fail to promote godliness is not acceptable to God; according to the scripture which says, "If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to the wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness. He is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words from which come envy, strife, evil suspicions." 1 Timothy 6:3-4. Beware, so that you will not be put in spiritual bondage through contrary doctrines. Any teaching that is not in conformity with the messages of Christ is from the darkness. You must never obey any instruction that condemns godly life. You must flee from people who do not accept the teaching that produces a life of devotion to God. Abstain from doctrines that fail to show the true way to serve God; if you don't want to end your journey in Satan's camp.

The corrupt think godliness means material gain: The mindset of the corrupt people is that godliness is a source of profit and money making business. Numerous preachers think that godliness is a way to make money in order to enrich themselves; instead of serving the Lord. Today, the perception of Christians is that Christianity religion is supposed to make you rich, and it is a road to riches. You need to keep away from those who believe that godliness is a means of financial gain, before they lead you astray.

The Bible cautioned us by saying, "useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From them withdraw yourself." 1 Timothy 6:5. Are you one of those who think religion is a way to make a fast buck? Are you equating the worship of God with making great sums of money? Do you believe that godliness is just a way to become wealthy through coercion? It is time for you to worship God in truth and in Spirit without any conditionality, and He will bless you abundantly in this world and the world to come.

Topic: Godliness has value for all things – Part 2

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Christianity is about Godliness

Christianity is about shunning worldliness; it is about keeping ourselves holy and being faithful to Almighty God who created us. Christianity is about prayer and spirituality. However, many people in the world are concerned with material values; or ordinary life rather than a spiritual existence. Nowadays, humans are devoted to this world and its pursuits rather than to their Maker. The aspirations of many make them to have a predominant passion for obtaining the good things of this life in a manner that result in covetousness, addictiveness to gain and temporal enjoyments; whereas a godly person will always pray for forgiveness; so that he/she will be immune from distressing times.

The faithful are prayerful and they always walk with God in Spirit so that when troubles rise like a flood, they will not reach them. The Book of Psalms corroborated this fact by saying, "For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him."

Psalm 32:6. Are you worldly minded? Are your ambitions in conflict with the instructions of the Lord? Are you spending your time to promote the work of God, or are you spending it on social activities? Do not forget that godliness is what can make you to overcome the raging flood of trials. If you are godly, you will neither be swept away; nor drown in the flood waters of judgment.

Be godly instead of occupying yourself with vanity: You must not occupy yourself with worthless things that cannot assist the work of God; or make you to grow spiritually. You are warned not to waste your time on gossips and rumors that are detrimental to your faith; instead use your time and energy judiciously; to support and boost the plan of God. The churches should stop

paying attention to myths that only cause arguments rather than advancing the redemptive purpose of God. Those preachers who always tell irrelevant stories; or crack jokes to make their sermons amusing and delightful should stop; according to the scripture which says, "Nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith." 1 Timothy 1:4. Are you wasting time on trivial things? Are you devoted to anything that cannot give glory to God; or make His mighty name to be praised? The time has come for you to reconcile with your Creator by behaving in godly manners.

For this reason, Christians must conduct themselves toward others with honesty and pure motives. The Believers must make sure that everything that they are doing in this world are ruled by God's given holiness in all their dealings, and they depend on God's grace, not on their own human wisdom; according to the Bible passage which says, "For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we have conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you." 2 Corinthians 1:12. Are your dealings based on integrity? Are you living an honorable life? Are you conducting yourself with purity? Are you still focused on God? Do you remain uncompromised? It is inevitable for every Christian to prove his/her Christianity faith through godliness.

You must add virtues to godliness

Christians need to be virtuous throughout their lifetime; if they intend to enter the eternal rest of God. When the Believers add godliness to their virtues; it signifies that they are on the righteous path, and they are on their guard for the coming of the Lord. It is the duty of the Beloved to be cautious and watch out for the return of Jesus Christ the Savior of the world. If you do not add virtues to your faith, you cannot claim to be alert for the coming of Christ. Whoever wants to live eternally with Jesus Christ in His glorious kingdom must be active in faith, and prepared for the return of the

Lord in virtues and godliness; according to the Book of Matthew which says "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." Matthew 24:42. Are you awake, or are you slumbering spiritually? Are you giving strict attention to the coming of the Lord? Since Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect; are you ready for His return? The best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is by adding virtues to godliness.

Apostle Peter testified this fact when he advised people concerning how to have a fruitful growth by saying, "But also for this reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness love," 2 Peter 1:5-7. It is your obligation as a Believer to add patience and endurance to your godliness; in order to inherit the kingdom of God. In addition, godliness will make you rich spiritually, if you are satisfied with what you have; because a godly life brings huge profits and spiritual growth to people who are content with what they have. Godliness is a source of great gain when accompanied by a sense of inward sufficiency. So, godliness with contentment is great wealth; according to the Book of Timothy which says, "Now godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 Timothy 6:6. Therefore, if you want God to reward you in this world and the world to come; you must worship Him in an acceptable way by showing Him great honor and respect. It is the duty of Christians to express their gratitude to God; by offering Him pleasing service with modesty and pious care. Believers must be thankful to God for His grace and mercies upon them; they must worship Him with reverence and awe throughout their existence; according to the scripture which says, "Therefore since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." Hebrews 12:28. Do you lay down your life for God, in absolute surrender filled with awe? Are you worshipping God reverently and with fear? Are you devoted to God? Are your conducts honoring God? Are you serving God with deep respect? If not, change today.

Inasmuch as the grace that we received through Jesus Christ has bestowed upon us everything necessary for a dynamic spiritual life and godliness; then, it is time to utilize the gifts that we received. Since we have received all things that are requisite, and suited to life and godliness; then, Christendom must not relax; but forge forward. The Believers have no excuse, and they cannot deny the fact that the indefeasible power of God granted them everything they need to live a life that pleases God and serves Him. The Book of Peter affirmed this fact by saying "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." 2 Peter 1:3. Are you living a godly life? How are you using your talents? Do you know that if you behave in ungodly manners you will be penalized? Do you know that you have no more excuses after reading this publication?

Hence, beware of people who are not conducting themselves in godly manners; most especially those who act as if they are serving God, but rely on Satan and his agents. You must stay away from people who appear to have a godly life; but refuse to let the power of God change them. You must keep clear of the so-called brothers and sisters who maintain the façade of religion; but their conduct denies its validity. Don't be naïve, you must avoid people who do things to make it look as if they are Christians; but they are darkness. Have nothing to do with those who are acting religious; but reject the power that could make them godly. The Book of Timothy warned us by saying, "Having a form of godliness but deny its power. And from such people turn away!" 2 Timothy 3:5. You must reject the people who are making a pretense of religion to exploit or coerce you.

Topic: Godliness has value for all things – Part 3

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Holiness and faithfulness are indispensable

Holiness and faithfulness are indispensable parts of godliness. Without holiness, no one can please God, or claim to behave in godly manners. Faithfulness is essential to walk with God, and anyone who is not loyal to God cannot assert that he/she is godly. The Christians must realize that without sanctity and loyalty to God, they cannot declare that they are the special people of God; which means every Believer must abstain from worldliness and sanctify himself/herself for the Lord.

Keep yourself holy: Since holiness is divinity; whenever you keep yourself holy, it means you are relating to God, or you are devoted to Him. Keep yourself holy if you want to be connected to your Maker. Anyone who wants to communicate with God must be holy; else, such a person is deceiving himself/herself. Anytime you keep yourself holy; it signifies that you are behaving in a godly manner, and you are imitating the Almighty God who is the Most Holy Being. There is no being that is holy like God, and no creature is as holy as Jehovah. No other god throughout the universe is like God, or any deity that is as holy as the Lord. The Book of Samuel attested to this fact by saying, "No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none beside You, nor is there any rock like our God." 1 Samuel 2:2.

Inasmuch as nothing and no one is holy like God, why not imitate Him by keeping yourself holy? If God is holy, all the people who proclaim to worship Him, most especially the Christians must be holy. It is the directive of the Lord that you must be holy because He is holy; according to the Book of Leviticus which says, "....'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Leviticus 19:2.

You must be holy; so that people will be able to distinguish between you who is worshipping God, and the unbelievers. The time has come for the Believers to keep themselves holy; in order for people to differentiate between them and the Gentiles; according to the scripture which says, "that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean." Leviticus 10:10. Holiness is what will make your prayers to be answered promptly and it will make people to glorify God through you.

Worship God in the beauty of holiness: The Christendom must worship God in holy splendor. It is inevitable for the Believers to worship God in majesty of His holiness as the Creator and source of holiness. The churches must honor the wonderful name of the Lord, and worship Him in the beauty of holiness; else, their worship will be unacceptable to God; according to the Bible passage which says, "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:2.

If you want God to pay attention to you; you must praise the Lord and bow down in His presence to worship Him in all His holy beauty; because God did not call us to impurity but to consecration. Our Creator called us to be dedicated to Him and set apart by behavior that pleases Him; whether in public or in private. God did not choose the Christians to be filthy, but to be pure and good examples. The Believers were not called to a life of sin, but to holiness. God did not call the Beloved to live in immorality but to sanctification. As it is written, "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness." 1 Thessalonians 4:7.

Hence, mankind should start living holy lives and not impure lives. Christians must dedicate themselves to God through purity, and we must be holy in every aspect of our lives, just as God who called us is holy. The Believers must be set apart from the world by their godly character and moral courage; according to the Book of Peter which says, "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct." 1 Peter 1:15. Is your manner of living holy?

Have you become holy in your entire way of life? It is time to live a life energetic and blazing with holiness; in order to receive the blessings of Abraham. If you are holy in everything you do, you will be admitted into the kingdom of heaven.

Do not misuse your body: You must not misuse your body, but keep it holy for the Lord. Do not be like the unbelievers who are defiling their bodies due to lack of knowledge of God. The Christendom needs to realize that the most sensible way to serve God is to make a decisive dedication of their bodies as a living sacrifice and pleasing to God. The only appropriate and spiritual way of worshipping God is by presenting all your members and faculties as a living sacrifice to God, and being devoted to Him. The epistle of Apostle Paul to the Romans corroborated this fact by saying, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1. Are you dedicated to God or something else? Are you consecrating yourself or not?

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould; instead offer your body as a holy sacrifice to God, and He will remould your mind from within, in order for you to reach the goal of spiritual maturity. It is unavoidable for you to offer your body as a living and holy gift to God; because your body is the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. Inasmuch as your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives; it must be kept holy at all times. The Book of Corinthians testified to this fact by saying, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 1 Corinthians 6:19. Since you do not belong to yourself, why not flee from sexual looseness and immorality? Why not sanctify your body for the Lord, in order to receive gifts of the Holy Spirit?

If you don't keep yourself holy; you will neither see the Lord, nor come into His presence. You must strive to live in peace with everybody and live a clean life, if you want to see God. You need

Anyone who intends to see God must sanctify himself/herself and try to keep his/her life free from sin; because anyone whose life is not holy will never see the Lord. As it is written, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

Hebrews 12:14. Are you getting along with others? Remember that without holiness no one will see God; so start living a holy life as from this moment.

You must be faithful: The Christians are obliged to be faithful to Almighty God their Creator throughout their existence. However, the opposite is the case, because no one is loyal to God; no one does right. Today, the godly people who are faithful and loyal to God are disappearing at an alarming rate from this world; while those with good character and moral integrity are rare among mankind. Nowadays, humans are so brutal and they are eager to deceive one another. The situation of the world is dicey, in a manner that makes the honest people vanish from the earth, and the majority of humans are neither decent nor loyal to God. The Book of Micah confirmed this fact by saying, "The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; every man hunts his brother with a net." Micah 7:2.

Are you among those who are entrapping their brethren because of gains? Is your hand stained with the blood of the innocent? Are you an expert in evil instead of good? Are you among the corrupt people who demand bribes? Are you among the powerful rich people who make sure they get what they want; even if it will displease the Lord? Are you turning against your people because of selfish ambitions? This is a wake up call for the Christendom; because fair-minded people that are left on the earth are few, and the right-living humans are nearly extinct. Though many people always declare their loyalty to God; but, are they actually reliable people? There are many who are saying 'You can trust me,' but can they be trusted? Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful

they are to God and their spouse; but it is difficult to find someone who really is. Today, lots of people are claiming to be loyal and loving, but where on earth can you find one? The Book of Proverbs affirmed this fact by saying, "Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man." Proverbs 20:6.

Are you among those who are claiming to have unfailing love for God when you know that you are a deceiver? Stop your pretense today and be faithful to your Creator; since it is your duty to be faithful to Him. It is essential for the overseers/pastors of the churches to be found faithful to God and trustworthy. What is expected of the workers that are managing the church affairs is to prove themselves faithful. What is demanded from the Christians who are servants/children of Christ is to be faithful to Almighty God their Maker/Master. Hence, Christians who are trusted with something valuable must show that they are worthy of that trust; according to the scripture which says, "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2. For this reason, it is the obligation of everyone to be faithful to God. You must be fully committed and devoted to the Lord; you must also walk in His statutes and keep His commands; in order to prove that you are godly. You must always act in the fear of the Lord and perform your duties or dealings with integrity. Faithfully serve the Lord with a blameless and undivided heart; and you will be blessed beyond your imagination.

Topic: Godliness has value for all things – Part 4

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Those who practice ungodliness will be condemned

God sent a prophecy through a prophet that the Savior of the world will come from Zion who will banish and remove ungodly behavior from the Christians who are the descendants of Abraham by faith. It is written that, out of Zion will come the Redeemer who will turn away ungodliness from the Christians; according to the Book of Romans which says, "And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.'" Romans 11:26. Almighty God fulfilled the prophecy when He sent Jesus Christ the Messiah into the world. Though Jesus Christ tried His best to make the Believers stop being evil or wicked; but many remain adamant.

The Lord knew that many will backslide; so, He uttered this statement, "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." John 8:44. Christ knew that the majority of people preferred to practice the desires of Satan rather than that of God. The Lord understood that countless people are natural deceivers, and whatever they say is half-truth or false; but He cannot force anyone to serve God. The Messiah had the foreknowledge that mankind is not faithful to God, and there is nothing truthful about humans. Inasmuch as people are dishonest and they are against the truth during the time that Christ spent on earth; so, what do you expect to happen after He ascended into heaven?

Nowadays, people are doing what they like instead of what pleases the Lord. Many people are hiding under the guise of freedom of speech, freedom of movement and freedom to

assemble to satisfy their lusts; even if it is against the law of God.

Majority of people are cruel, and they care less about the less privileged. Today, numerous people live in a godless way and practice hypocrisy. Most people are devising wickedness and acting irreverently by speaking falsely of Almighty God. It is a common occurrence to see people making plans to do sinful things: these people will not repent of their iniquities; instead they will be saying wrong things about the Lord to excuse themselves.

The Bible corroborated this fact by saying, "For the foolish person will speak foolishness, and his heart will work iniquity: to practice ungodliness, to utter error against the Lord, to keep the hungry unsatisfied, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail." Isaiah 32:6.

Are you among those that are spreading false teachings about the Lord? Are you ignoring the poor? Do you belong to the category of the foolish people who are insulting God? Are you acting in any way that can provoke God? Do you envy the crooks that are rewarded with fame? Do you prefer celebrity status to godliness? You need to change now; because God does not condone people who suppress and stifle the truth. In fact God shows how angry He is with unrighteous people who in their wickedness are repressing and hindering the truth; thereby making it inoperative. The scripture testified to this fact by saying, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." Romans 1:18. Are you among those who silence the truth with injustice? Do you think you are crushing the truth by your acts? Are you suppressing the truth by your immoral living? Do you know that withholding the truth is ungodliness? You must neither be wicked nor stifle the truth; if you don't want the anger of God to come upon you.

Hence, avoid irreverent and empty speech; instead, concentrate your energy on the work of God. You must abstain from godless chatter; if you want to be counted as a godly person. The Christians must ignore godless discussions, because they will

lead many into ungodly behavior. If you are a Believer, keep away from worthless and useless talk, so that you will not be led farther away from God; according to the Book of Timothy which says, "But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness." 2 Timothy 2:16. It is time for you to stay away from vain and worthless talk; if you want to be counted worthy of the Glorious Home.

Judgment will come upon the ungodly

Numerous ungodly people have mingled with the Christians; they are distorting the grace of God into decadence and immoral freedom; they view the grace of God as an opportunity to do whatever they want. These people that slipped into the midst of Christendom are perverting the spiritual blessing and favor of God into lawlessness and wantonness. These ungodly people have wormed their way into the Churches throughout the world; saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. They have influenced many to imitate them by living a sinful or lustful life, and they speak of the loving-favor of God to cover up their sins. These agents of Satan that infiltrated the ranks of the Christendom are shameless scoundrels who pretend to have a pious skin; their design is to replace the divine grace of God with sheer/ordinary license. These people are designated for condemnation, because their acts disown our Lord Jesus Christ. The Book of Jude affirmed this statement by saying, "For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude 1:4.

Have you turned the grace of God into lusts and lewdness? Do you think that the unmerited favor of God is a license for excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures? Are you influenced by those agents of darkness that sneaked into the Churches? Do you know that if you are promiscuous and unprincipled in sexual

matters; you have been impacted? Do not reject our Lord Jesus Christ; else you will be doomed.

You must neither envy nor imitate these ungodly people; even though it seems all goes well for them and they live in peace during their lifetime; still they will spend their eternity in hell. These intruders always prosper and relax with enormous wealth, but they are not rich in God. These sinful/wicked people always live a carefree life while their riches multiply; because they belong to the prince of this world; according to the Book of Psalm which says, "Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase in riches." Psalm 73:12.

Though these ungodly people are always wealthy; but they always have spiritual issues that neither money nor wealth can solve.

Therefore, if the righteous people will be rewarded on the earth with godly blessings; it means the wicked and the sinner will be repaid spiritually with punishment. Therefore, the only way to escape judgment is to be godly; according to the Bible passage which says, "if the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner." Proverbs 11:31. Consider that if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the wicked? Be godly if you want to be rewarded in this world and the world to come.

The ungodly will not be spared: God did not have pity on the ungodly people of the world; but He destroyed them with a flood during Noah's time. If God did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah and his household when he brought the judgment of flood upon the world of godless people; then He will not spare the ungodly during this period. The Book of Peter confirmed this statement by saying, "And did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of the eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly." 2 Peter 2:5.

If God can condemn to ruin and extinction the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by reducing them to ashes; in order to set them as an example of what will happen to the ungodly people; then He will penalize the godless people during this time. If God punished Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes; in order to warn anyone who wants to sin; don't you think that God will pass judgment on the ungodly? The Bible chronicles the event by saying, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly." 2 Peter 2:6.

God used these two events/incidents to serve as a deterrent to the godless people. Hence, God will execute judgment on the people of the world. He will condemn humans for the ungodly things they have spoken against Him; according to the scripture which says, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." Jude1:15. Change today and be godly; before the judgment of God comes upon you. Stop all your godless activities and abstain from saying defiant words against the Lord. You will be saved and you will escape punishment, if you start behaving in a godly manner.

Topic: Godliness has value for all things – Part 5

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Knowledge of the truth leads to godliness

God in His infinite mercy wants all humanity to be delivered and come to full knowledge of the truth. The desire of our Maker is for people to perceive and know precisely the divine Truth; in order to be saved. God wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth; according to the scripture which says, "Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4. Are you ready to learn the truth? Do you know that the truth leads to godliness? Can you discern the truth that accords godliness? Do you realize that recognizing and knowing correctly the truth is what brings salvation? Therefore, you must acknowledge and understand the truth; in order to be saved and inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Nowadays, many Christians make the decision to sin after they have received the knowledge of the truth; such people will be punished. We need to understand that no sacrifice can be made for people who intentionally sin after acquiring the knowledge of the truth. God will not spare from His pending judgment, those who sin deliberately after knowing the truth. It is a common occurrence for people to sin willfully, after learning the truth with the aim of repenting later; such people are deceiving themselves, because they will receive judgment instead of forgiveness.

You need to realize that if you give up and turn your back on the truth that you have accepted/received; Christ will not intervene on your behalf; because you repudiate His sacrifice, and you will be left on your own to face the fierce judgment of God. As it is written, "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins." Hebrews 10:26. Let it be

clear to you that no sacrifice will take away, or absolve, or cover your sins, if you purposely sin; hence start living a godly life.

It is important for mankind to know that the knowledge of the truth accords with godliness. Anyone who understands the truth will know that it produces a life of devotion to God. So, it is correct to say that the knowledge of the truth conforms to godliness and harmonizes with it. Therefore, it is your obligation to teach people about the truth that leads to a godly life. It is inevitable for every living soul to please Almighty God their Creator by knowing and understanding the truth that agrees with godliness. The work of the leaders of Christianity is to stimulate and promote the faith of the Christians, and to lead them on to accurate discernment and acquaintance with the truth that tends to godliness.

Hence, Christian leaders throughout the world must encourage the Beloved to be faithful to God, and pursue the knowledge of the truth which leads to godliness; according to the Book of Titus which says, "Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgement of the truth which accords with godliness." Titus 1:1. Are you assisting people to know the truth that shows how to serve God? The time has come for you to teach the Brethren to know the truth that demonstrates how to live a godly life.

Godly sorrow produces repentance: Humans need to realize that we are dust, and we will certainly turn back to dust; therefore, we need to change our sinful and lustful lifestyles before it is too late. It must be clear to us that we didn't bring anything into this world and we won't take anything with us when we leave. For this reason, we must not pursue worldliness, but exhibit remorse for our past. The Book of Timothy stated that, "For we brought nothing into the world and it is certain we can carry nothing out." 1 Timothy 6:7. With this knowledge, why not be remorseful? Even if this publication hurts your feelings; it is because God intends to use your hurt feelings to make you turn back to Him.

If you are pained by the contents of this topic; your Maker wants you to handle the pain in a godly manner, and change your ways. If it is sorrow, or grief, or sadness that you are presently feeling; know that whatever that you are feeling will lead to repentance; by making you to change your life for good. If you are upset, then it means this publication has achieved its goal; because the purpose of the Bible study is to make people grief for whatever they have done wrong, and turn back to God. The epistle of Paul chronicled this statement by saying, "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing." 2 Corinthians 7:9.

We pray that whatever pain or sorrow caused by this publication will make you to repent and change your evil ways; because godly sorrow produces a change of heart and life; thereby leading to salvation. If you want to be saved, then you must be sorrowful in a godly manner. At this point we need to realize that not all sadness leads to salvation; only godly sadness is in accord with the will of God, and it produces a repentance without regret leading to Salvation; whereas worldly sadness produces death; according to the Bible passage which says, "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." 2 Corinthians 7:10.

Are you sorrowful in a godly manner or worldly manner? Is your grief leading you away from sin or towards sin? Is your distress driving you to God or not? Is your grief causing you to change the way you think and act? Are you handling your pain in a godly way or not? Do you know that God is in the One directing godly pain to produce repentance, and contributing to salvation? Is your sadness leading to deliverance from evil? Do not forget that God usually uses the sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek eternal life; however, those who let distress drive them away from God will be full of regrets and die miserably.

Be an example of godliness: The prominent people throughout the world should live a life marked by godliness and dignity. We need to pray for the people who are in positions of high responsibility across the world to have the fear of God, and exhibit seriousness in every way. The people in positions of authority in every Nation should be godly and upright in everything. Had it been that the leaders of the Nations of the world are honest and they are living in sanctity; injustice will not be rampant throughout the world, as it is today. Had it been that the elders of every community are living lives full of devotion to God and respect for Him; chastity and immorality will not be prevalent in our communities.

This is a wake up call for our rulers to live a quiet life with reverence toward God and with proper conduct; instead of their extravagant and selfish lifestyles. The governments throughout the world need to demonstrate that they are conducting their businesses in humble contemplation and integrity; according to the scripture which says, "For kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence." 1 Timothy 2:2. Hence, godliness and holiness must be the watchword of our rulers, and the populace must discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness.

Everyone must avoid gossip and damaging rumors. Those who want to be an example of godliness must not be busybodies or backbite; instead they should keep themselves spiritually fit. Christians must have nothing to do with pointless myths and godless fictions, but train themselves in godliness for a holy life; according to the Book of Timothy which says, "But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness." 1 Timothy 4:7. Don't waste your time arguing over godless ideas and foolish stories that disagree with God's truth; instead train yourself for devotion and discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

The shepherds must shun evil things; instead they should pursue righteousness and a godly life with virtues. The pastors must

avoid sinful and lustful things; they should be filled with the fear of God, and live a Christ-like life. The leaders of Christianity must try their best to please God and be like Him; they should be faithful, loving, dependable and gentle; as it is written, "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness." 1 Timothy 6:11.

Are you virtuous? Do you think that your conduct is in moral conformity with God? Are you pursuing justice or injustice? Do you have an active and right relationship with God? Is humility, perseverance and endurance among your watchwords? To prove that you are among the people of God, you must aim at and pursue right standing with God and true goodness.

You must please God: Enoch was faithful to God during his lifetime. He pleased God, so he did not die, God took him up to heaven because of his faith; that was the reason why his body was never found. The Book of Hebrews stated that, "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, 'and was not found, because God had taken him;' for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Hebrews 11:5. God is capable of repeating the same feat, whereby you will neither have a glimpse of death nor experience death; if your ways please Him and you have unshaken faith in Him.

The Bible also testified that Noah pleased the Lord, and he was utilized for the salvation of the world. Noah was a just and righteous man; he was a moral and exemplary man, who is the only blameless person in his generation. Noah was the most innocent man of his generation who lived right and obeyed God by walking in habitual fellowship with his Creator. The Bible corroborated this fact by saying, ".... Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." Genesis 6:9.

Are you among the blameless people living on earth? Are you walking in close fellowship with God? Do you think your way pleases the Lord? Can people testify that you are pleasing God? If

not, change before it is too late; because those who are living a life that caters to sinful appetites and impulses cannot please God. Anyone that is serving his/her carnal nature is not acceptable to God. If you are under the control of your lustful desires, you cannot satisfy God; according to the Book of Romans which says, "So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:8. Since you cannot obey your human nature and please God, why not be in spirit?

Whenever you are fasting, you must remember to remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice; stop the hard labor of the oppressed, and free those who are abused. If you want your prayers to be acceptable; you must share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless; give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and you must neither refuse to help your relatives nor turn them away Issaiah 58:6-7. Whenever you do good deeds, don't try to show off, else it will be unacceptable to God. Your charitable deeds must not be done publicly in a manner that can/will attract the praises of men; else it will not please God and you will have no reward from Him Matthew 6:1-2.

For this reason, never neglect others but share whatever you have with those in need; because this is a sacrifice that pleases God. If you want God to be pleased with you; then, do not forget to do good and assist other people; according to the Bible passage which says, "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews 13:16. Are you showing mercy to the poor? Do you always intentionally miss any opportunity to do acts of kindness to others? Are you contributing to the needy of your church? Do you know that your generosity to the less privileged is an embodiment and proof of fellowship with God? It is your duty to impart on others this essential virtue by which God's favor is obtained.

Topic: Godliness has value for all things – Part 6

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Godliness is compulsory for humanity

Godliness is compulsory for mankind; because that was the primary reason that we were created, and given the dominion of the earth. It is mandatory for humans to behave in a godly way throughout their lifetime; in order to be admitted into the Glorious Home. God wants humans to respect Him, and do what He has commanded us to do; He wants us to love and worship Him with our whole being. Our Creator demanded that we must fear Him, and live in a godly way that pleases Him; by loving and serving Him wholeheartedly. The Bible corroborated this fact by saying, "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." Deuteronomy 10:12.

Are you walking in obedience to God? Are you living in His presence in holy reverence? Are you living a godly life? Do not forget that godliness is obligatory for you; because many people seem to be just and upright but their hearts are full of pretense and iniquity. Today, most people look good and nice; but they are only pretending because their minds are filled with evil. The outward appearance of numerous people throughout the world is that of the saints; but beneath their skins, they are total frauds.

Jesus Christ warned that most people are hypocrites by saying, "Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness." Matthew 23:28.

Are you feigning to be what you are not? Is your behavior in conformity with the teachings of the Holy Bible? Have you ever contradicted Christianity in any way or form? Are you claiming to be righteous when your behaviors are in conflict with your claim?

Do you always put up an appearance that will make people think you are godly? Are you a hypocrite who pretends to be virtuous? It is time to change and be godly; if you want to inherit the kingdom of God. You must be more obedient than the hypocrites; if you want to enter the Glorious Home.

Your uprightness and moral essence must surpass that of the pretenders if you want to be admitted into the kingdom of heaven; according to the statement of Christ which says, "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:20. Are you ready to be more virtuous than the hypocrites? What are your plans to increase your faithfulness to God? Are you taking steps to be more faithful than the Pharisees? Do you think that your right standing with God is more than that of the Scribes? Remember that you must live a godly life, and abound in justice; before you can enter the kingdom of heaven.

Righteousness is an attribute of godliness

God has revealed to humanity; what is good and what He wants. Our Creator made us to be aware, that it is a necessity to diligently practice compassion, and set aside any overblown sense of importance. Almighty God told us to do what is right and what He demands. He demanded that mankind must see that justice is done at all times; we must let mercy be our first concern, and humbly obey our Maker; according to the Book of Micah which says, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8. Are you living in purity and humble fellowship with God? Are you doing what is right for other people? Is justice paramount in your heart? Do you always judge fairly? Are you ready to quit self-seeking and self-righteousness?

God already made it plain and clear that He wants you to live a godly life. However, no one meets God's standard. Humans are

not just and upright; because many of our ambitions or aspirations are in conflict with godliness. Nowadays, people are neither truthful nor conscientious; because we are focused on vanity instead of God. There is no one in this sinful world; who always does what is good and right. "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one.'" Romans 3:10. This is a wake up call for the Believers, who intend to inherit the kingdom of heaven; to start living right and behave in a godly way; in order to be acceptable to God.

Inasmuch as God is not biased, and He does not discriminate; whoever that practices godliness is acceptable to Him. God is pleased with anyone who regards Him with great respect, and has reverential fear for Him. If you want God to be delighted in you; worship Him faithfully, and do what is right at all times. Immaterial of your gender or country; if you are practicing righteousness and you are living uprightly, you are acceptable to God; according to the Book of Acts which says, "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is acceptable by Him." Acts 10:35. Since righteousness is an attribute of godliness, are you ready to start doing what is right? Are you ready to make justice your watchword? Are you prepared to start treating your Maker with worshipful obedience? Do not allow your challenges to make you unacceptable to the Lord; instead, strive to improve your righteousness.

You can emulate Zacharias and Elizabeth whom the Bible described as good people, who pleased the Lord God by obeying all that He had commanded; despite their problem of childlessness. The Bible stated that they did what was good before God, by following everything the Lord commanded and they were without fault in keeping His law; according to Bible passages which says "....And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." Luke 1:5-6. Are you careful enough to obey all the commands of God? Do you have a clear conscience before God?

<u>Do you prioritize your troubles more than God? Do you elevate your problems above God?</u> Are you living a good life in the sight of God? Do you think that you are worthy to be called a righteous person? If not, there is still time for you to change.

Faithfulness signifies godliness

Faithfulness to God is an indication of godliness. Whoever that is faithful to his/her Maker is exhibiting godliness, it is correct to say that faithfulness signifies godliness. Since faithfulness translates into godliness; then it is the duty of the Christians to love Almighty God and be faithful to Him throughout their existence. Humans must demonstrate their moral and spiritual integrity by loving their Creator; who in turn will protect them from danger. Inasmuch as God protects those who are loyal to Him, but harshly punished the arrogant; why not be faithful to Him? As it is written, "Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person." Psalm 31:23. Do you love God or the vanity of this world? Do you know that you will be cut off if you are not loyal to your Creator? You must love the Lord with passion; if you want to be protected from the terrestrial power. Faithfulness to God is what will earn you long life and prosperity.

God is delighted in faithfulness: King David through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said, "My eye shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me," Psalm 101:6. Likewise, the eyes of the Lord are focused on the people who are faithful to Him throughout the world; in order to reward them. The eyes of God look with favor upon those who are loyal to Him, and He will be extraordinarily kind of them. Only trustworthy people are acceptable in the presence of God; so, if you want to serve the Lord, you must be honest. Hence, those who want to be priests or servants of God must live the lives of integrity and innocence.

For this reason, God blesses His loyal people but punished all who want to get rich quick. Any truthful and reliable person will have many blessings, while those who are eager to get rich in contrary ways will be punished. The honest people will be richly blessed physically and spiritually; but those who hurry to be rich at any cost will not go unpunished; according to the scripture which says, "A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished." Proverbs 28:20. Are you presently involved in any get-rich-quick scheme? Do you realize that if you want quick riches, you will get into trouble? Do not forget that committed and persistent work pays off; so, do not make haste to be rich through a nefarious way. Do what is right and be faithful to God; then you will be rewarded physically and spiritually.

Topic: Godliness has value for all things – Part 7

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1-8

Live a godly life and be rewarded

God loves righteousness and His heavenly throne was established on righteousness and justice. Psalm 89:14, 97:2. Righteousness symbolizes one of the characters of our Lord God; which means the righteous people are blessed. However, many people are being persecuted for doing what is morally right; such people should not waiver, because they will be comforted by inner peace and God's love.

If you are one of those that are being treated badly for doing right; do not compromise, because you will find satisfaction in God's favor and salvation; regardless of your outward conditions. The Book of Matthew stated that, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," Matthew 5:10. Have you ever been harassed, because you are righteous? Are people persecuting you, because you pursue righteousness? Matthew 5:10.

Whoever endures will be blessed, and such a person will inherit the kingdom of heaven; because the Lord watches over everyone who obeys Him, and He listens to their prayers. God is looking favorably upon the upright, and His ears are attentive to their prayer; but He opposes everyone who does evil; according to the Book of Peter which says, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil," 1 Peter 3:12. If you want God to listen to your prayers and answer promptly; do not practice evil. Since God cannot tolerate those who do evil; be faithful to God and do what is right at all times.

Anyone who left properties, parents, and children; because of the Gospel will receive countless goodness in this world, and eternal life in the world to come. If you want to be given manifold good things in this life, and life that lasts forever in the age to come; then you must focus on the work of God more than your siblings and spouse. Jesus confirmed this fact by saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

Luke 18:29-30. If you sacrifice your home, spouse and children, in order to please God, you will not lose out; instead, it will all come back multiplied many times over in your lifetime, and then the bonus of eternal life will be added.

The only way to receive eternal life is to practice godliness and pay attention to the work of God; then you will reign perpetually in the kingdom of God. You must be upright, before you can radiate the new life like the sun, in the heavenly kingdom. Everyone who has done right during their lifetime will shine like the sun, in the kingdom of God immaterial of their race or gender; according to the Book of Matthew which says, "Then the righteous will shine forth as the Sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matthew 13:43, The only way to be rewarded, and shine like the sun, is to live a godly life.

Benefits of godliness

There are countless benefits that will accrue to the godly people during their lifetime, and they will receive eternal rest in the age to come. The following are some of the benefits of godliness:

 God will rescue the godly from the trials that are rampant throughout the world. He will deliver the godly from their sufferings and punish the evil people while they wait for the judgment day. The Lord knows how to save those who serve Him faithfully when troubles come or when their faith is being

tested; however, He will keep the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment <u>2 Peter 2:9</u>. Be godly, if you want God to assist you and make you to overcome your temptations. <u>If you want to be justified on the Day of Judgment, remain faithful to the Lord throughout your lifetime.</u>

- God will be gracious to the godly people who consider the helpless. God will have compassion on them, because they care about the poor and the weak; the Lord will rescue those people in times of evil and trouble. You must be kind to the less privileged before God will deliver you, protect you, and keep you alive; then you will be called the blessed of the Lord; because you will not be delivered to the desires of your enemies Psalm 41:1-2. Be godly, if you don't want God to abandon you to the power of your enemies.
- God will bless the godly people who are not living in the counsel of the ungodly, by following their example and advice. Those who refuse to follow the plans and purposes of the wicked; or join in sneering at God will be blessed abundantly Psalm 1:1. You must not do what the evil people are doing, or join the enemies of God who are laughing at the truth; if you want to be blessed. The blessing of God will manifest in your journey only if you do not stand submissive and inactive in the path of the sinners.
- God has chosen everyone who is faithful to be His own treasure. He will deal wonderfully with the godly people; because of their honorable character and moral courage. God will give distinction to anyone who is godly; He will listen and heed whenever such a person calls to Him for assistance Psalm 4:3. You must be faithful to God before He will take personal care of you. You can only be special to God, if you are loyal to Him and have a covenant relationship with Him.

• As long as you dismiss your dread and fears, you will receive an eternal crown; especially if you endure and persevere, whatever hardships and difficulties that are confronting you without any compromise. Those who remain loyal to God to the point of death will be given an imperishable crown of life. The godly people who are faithful until they die will be rewarded with a glorious life <u>Revelation 2:10. You must</u> <u>remain faithful to God, even when facing death or even if you</u> have to die; in order to be given the crown of life.

Finally, Brethren, we beg and admonish you in virtue of our union with the Lord Jesus Christ, to follow the instructions which you learn from these publications; about how you ought to walk so as to please God. You must pursue a life of purpose, and live in a way that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation. Christians must strive to abundantly attain greater perfection in living a godly life; that pleases and gratifies God.

Inasmuch as all Believers belong to Jesus Christ, we encourage you to live as you are taught, in all the Churches where the spiritual light of God reigns; because this is the only way to please God. The Book of Thessalonians attested to this fact by saying, "Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you receive from us how you ought to walk and to please God." 1 Thessalonians 4:1. Are you living in a way that pleases God? We encourage the Beloved to continue to grow and excel, in living a Christ-like life.

The Seal: 1 Timothy 4:8: "For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."