

The Mystery of Godliness

eusebeia – to respect, honor and apply the principles of the purpose of God
discipline
responsibility in authority
sebatos – in Latin, Augustus
a specialized military cohort – Acts 27:1- “Augustus’ band
expected behavior of Gentile proselytes
In more ancient times, a pathway to happiness and contentment
” ungodliness” in NT connected with lusts and wayward, damning activities

I Timothy 3:15 – 4:5 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. And without controversy (homologoumenos) great (*mevas*) is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Current heresies versus godliness

I Timothy 4:7-8 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto **godliness**. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness** is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Recommended Progression

I Timothy 6:3-6 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to **godliness**; He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is **godliness**: from such withdraw thyself. But **godliness** with contentment is great gain.

vv. 11-12 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, **godliness**, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

II Peter 1:5-7 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue (*arete* integrity, noble consistency) ; and to virtue knowledge (*gnosis*); And to knowledge temperance (to demonstrate the *kratos* power); and to temperance patience; and to patience **godliness**; And to **godliness** brotherly kindness (*philadelphia*); and to brotherly kindness charity (*agape*).

Last Days

II Timothy 3:1-9 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form (to morph) of **godliness**, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. -- Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after (with) **godliness**;

Pray for the continuance of godliness

I Timothy 2:1,2 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all **godliness** and honesty.

II Peter 3:11-13 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and **godliness**, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Miracles will come, but godliness is not of human works

Acts 13:12 - And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power (d) or **holiness** we had made this man to walk?