

## **GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT**

Our lesson text involves three Greek sentences (1 Tim.6:6-8, 9, ad 10).

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletic points.

- 1 Tim.6:6-8    Plenty of Gain            (porismos) [only time used]
- 1 Tim.6:9       Plunged into Ruin
- 1 Tim.6:10      Pierced with Pains

The Greek word for godliness is eusebeia (eu) [good] (sebeia) [devout activities] (2 Pet.2:6-10) (ungodly vs. godly)

**NOTE:** As a prefix to a Greek word, **EU** gives special emphasis to it.

- **Euangelion**    (eu) [good] (angelion) [message or news] becomes the gospel evangelism
  - (1 Cor.15:1-4; Rom.1:16).
- **Eucharistia**    (eu) [good] (charistia) [giving thanks for grace salvation] (eucharist)
  - (1 Cor.11:24-26; Eph.2:8-9).
- **Eulogia**        (eu) [good] [word] [invocation of blessings]
  - (EULOGY) [commendatory in honor of a deceased]

**This lesson will study four aspects of Godliness with Contentment.**

### **1. We have learned that godliness is a key doctrine in the Pastoral Epistles and especially in 1Timothy.**

It was used eight times in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy. (1 Tim.2:2; 3:16; 4:7, 8; **6:3, 5, 6, 11**). In 1 Tim.3:16, Paul discussed godliness as a mystery doctrine associated with the First Advent of Christ.

Notice that in closing 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, Paul used it four times. He warns of the danger of false teaching in the Church regarding the doctrine of godliness (1 Tim.6:3).

Many Churches place the importance on religious works for godliness. But the doctrinal truth is that the importance of godliness in the Christian's Way of Life (CWL) is the Indwelling Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

(2 Tim.3:5) "Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these." (Titus 1:1-4).

In the last points of the mystery of godliness, Paul mentioned the Ascension-Session of Jesus Christ:

(1 Tim.3:16) "Taken up in glory"

This is a key to the importance of spirituality (the work of Indwelling Holy Spirit) and not works of the flesh to achieve godliness. (John 16:7, 13-15; 17:1)

2. In (1 Tim.6:6-8), the word contentment is used twice.

- In (1Tim.6:6), contentment is the Greek word, (autarkeia) [self-sufficient or content]. “But **godliness** actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.”

This same Greek word is used in (Phil.4:11-13) – “I have learned to be content (self-sufficient) in whatever circumstances I am.”

- In (1Tim.6:7-8), contentment is a different Greek word, (arkeia) [content, suffice, enough] [mental attitude].

The difference in these two Greek words for contentment is the importance of the role of godliness in Christian’s Way of Life (CWL).

**(1Tim.6:6) “[And it is, indeed, a source of immense profit, for] godliness accompanied with contentment (that contentment which is a sense of inward sufficiency) is great and abundant gain.” (Amplified Bible)**

3. Godliness with contentment is one of the virtues of reaching and maintaining super grace spiritual maturity in the Christian’s Way of Life (CWL).

(1 Tim.6:11) “But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.**”

**Godliness with contentment is the ability to spiritually (Gal.5:16; 2 Cor.5:7) maintain a Relaxed Mental Attitude (RMA) by applying pertinent Categorical Bible Doctrines (CBD) to every circumstance of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) while under maximum pressure.**

**Examples:** (Heb.12:2; James 1:2-4 and John 16:20).

(Heb.12:2) “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising he shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

4. One of the challenges to godliness with contentment is thinking that Details Of Life (DOLs) are a source of happiness and security in the Christian’s Way of Life (CWL). (1 Tim.6:9-10).

“Greener pastures” syndrome of false thinking of the details of life occurs from “**wandering from the faith**” (1 Tim.6:10; Rom.12:2) and Conformity to the world’s thinking (OMCD).

(1 Tim.6:9-10) Wandering from the faith resulted in falling (empipto/ p.a.ind.3pl) into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction and pierced with many pangs.

Lot’s wife is an example of this very “wandering from the faith” in midst of great pressure (Luke 17:28-33; Gen.19:26)

**PRINCIPLE: “To whom little is not enough, no amount will be enough.”**