

Lesson 2

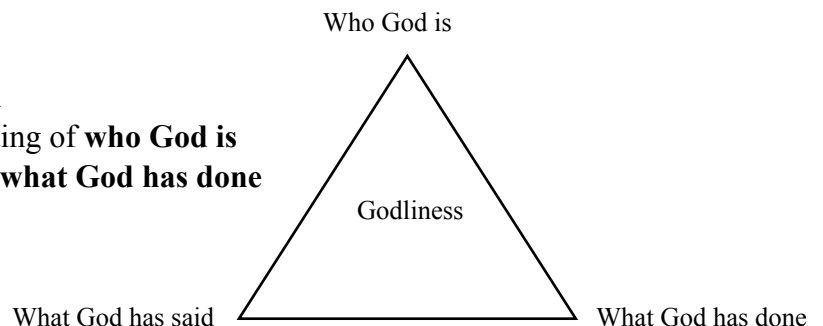
Godliness or Godlessness?

“What one generation tolerates the next generation will propagate.”

“Where have all the saints gone? There is no substitute for godliness. It is the best thing that can be said of any man when it can be said of him that he is ‘a man of God.’ Great spiritual movements begin when men take seriously the claims of truth upon themselves and their churches. Truth has a chemistry all of its own. It has a way of transforming the ordinary mind and the average tongue into instruments of awful power for God. It is not only the geniuses of history whom God has used to begin revival. It has often been men of modest talent, yet men who had a surpassing personal knowledge of God, learned in the secret place and made molten with the holy desire to do something which would make the mountains tremble. Real holiness is not a pale and passive medieval kind but that which kindles with a consuming passion in the regenerate soul and cries, in the face of our decadent and indifferent society, ‘Let God arise! I shall give thee no rest, O Lord, till thou come!’ Such saints this world sorely needs. Perhaps more now than ever.” *Maurice Roberts, The Thought of God; Pg 142*

Intro: *The diagram of biblical godliness*

- Godliness begins with **what God has said**
- Godliness deepens with a right understanding of **who God is**
- Godliness is sweetened with delighting in **what God has done**



~ An Introductory Definition

Godliness is God _____ that yields God likeness!

~ To be godly is to walk with God!

~ To be ungodly is to walk away from God and walk with and in the ways of Satan!

- Compare Cain and Abel: Gen 4:1-8; Heb 11:4; 1 Jn 3:8-15; Jn 8:42-44; 1 Jn 5:19; 2 Tim 2:26-3:9
- Consider the generational results of Cain versus Seth
 - Cain - Gen 4:17-24
 - Seth - Gen 4:25-5:32

~ **Examples of godly Men who Walked with God**

- Enoch (Gen 5:21-24; Heb 11:5-6; Jude 14-15)
 - He was a man marked by an _____ in God
 - He was a man that _____ God
 - He was a man _____ after God
 - He was a man that _____ against ungodliness
 - He was a man who lived _____ in a godless world
 - He was a man who was _____ by God
- Noah (Gen 6:9; Heb 11:5-7; 2 Pet 2:5)
 - He was a man marked by _____ despite the demand
 - He was a man who _____ God despite the difficulty
 - He was a man who _____ God despite the distractions/temptations
 - He was a man who _____ against ungodliness
 - He was a man who lived _____ in a godless world
- Abraham (Gen 12:1-4; 15:1-6; 17:1-3; 22:1-18; Heb 11:8-10, 17-19)
- Zacharias (Luke 1:5-23, 67-79)

Homework:

1. Both Ruth and Abraham are rightfully considered godly based upon who they were and what they did. Read Gen 12:1-4; Heb 11:8-10, 17-19; Ruth 1:15-22, 2:11-12 and identify some of the similarities between the faith and faithfulness of both Ruth and Abraham.
2. Read Luke 1:5-23, 67-79 and evaluate the godly life of Zachariah. What specific characteristic marks his faith that also marked the faith Enoch, Noah, and Abraham? There are also two more specific characteristics that mark Zachariah as a godly man. The answers will be found in the words of the angel (1:13) and the words of Zachariah (1:67-79). List and explain those two characteristics.
3. Read 2 Pet 2:14 as compared to 1 Tim 4:7-8 and explain the positive and negative potential to “training” (same Greek word used in both passages). Identify who the “unsteady souls” are who are enticed by the false teachers. The answer is in the context and consider the end of verse 13.
4. Now read Heb 5:11-14 and consider the “unsteady souls” of 2 Pet 2:14. Are there any comparisons between the two passages and if so name them. Consider the same Greek word for “trained” is used again (Heb 5:14). See if you can identify what is being trained, how is it being trained, and what are the results of this training?

Memory Verse: 1 Tim 6:11