

# GODLINESS (A Word-study)

The use of the word "GODLINESS" in the authorised version N.T.

2 Cor. 7:9-11 "Godly sorrow" - "sorrow according to God".

"Godliness" is a strange English word. Does it mean godly or godlikeness, that is being like God?

Godliness is from Greek words they are derived from the verb *sebomai*. *Sebomai* is one of the two words most often translated in worship. The other, *proskunro*, stresses the outward action of worship, whereas *sebomai* refers to the inner feeling of awe in worship. So godliness has to do with our being overcome with awe.

The word godliness in I Timothy 2:10 means to be *in awe of God*. This is the only occurrence of *theosebia* in the New Testament, (theos, God + sebeia, being in awe of).

I Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array"; 10 "But (which becomes women professing *godliness*) with good works".

It is saying that women who claim to be in awe of God should dress themselves with good works, rather than dressing to impress.

In all other instances godliness is from *eusebeia* (eu well + sebeia), meaning being deeply in awe, or being overcome by awe or piety.

In Acts 2:12 *eusebeia* is translated "holiness":-

Acts 2:12 "... **Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? Or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power *holiness* we had made this man to walk?**"

Peter was explaining that it was not their *piety* that had enabled the man to walk.

In all other places *eusebeia* is consistently translated godliness.

## EXAMPLES:

I Timothy 3:16 - "**And without controversy great 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**".

Does it not rivet you with overwhelming awe that the Almighty should make Himself known to mankind in the flesh?

Being driven by awe for God is totally advantageous:

I Timothy 4:8 - "**For bodily exercise profits little: but *godliness* is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come**".

Anyone disputing this has a conceited empty head:

I Timothy 4:8 - "**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 . . .**"

How could anyone even begin to think that man's acquisitiveness is an indicator of his

depth of awe for God?

I Timothy 6:5 - "**Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is *godliness*: from such withdraw thyself**".

You can't beat being content with what you have and having a life motivated by an overcoming awe for God:

I Timothy 6:6 - "**But *godliness* with contentment is great gain**".

The end is coming so we must sit up and take notice now!

2 Peter 3:11 - "***Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness***".

This necessitates getting to know the Lord more and more. All the information on this is in the Bible:

2 Peter 1:3 - "**According as His divine power has given unto us all things that *pertain unto life and godliness*, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue**".

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