

# Godliness and its Reward!



#2947 0516 21A

VIRTUAL

It is all about *faith* and *trust* and *love* of God; and about obedience to the *Word* of God. <sup>1</sup> Timothy 3:16 “*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.*” The mystery of godliness was shown in the life of Christ.

The New Testament is the operator’s manual for conducting our life according to the will of God. If we will choose to obey the Word in faith, and to follow these instructions as written, we enjoy spiritual benefits *today* and eternal rewards *later*. <sup>1</sup> Timothy 4:8 “*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.*”

Massive amounts of information can be obtained today—and we want to know *what* to do or *how* to do for the best *results* with any given situation—repairing an appliance or doing a home improvement. It is frustrating not to know *what* to do or *how* to proceed with something. Whether it is a computer, a power tool, or kitchen appliance, it is so good to have someone actually *show* us the problem and how to correct it. The Bible is all the

information we need to know the *cause* and *cure* of any problem we encounter in life.

The spiritual benefit of conducting our life according to the Word of God is beyond anything else. God is our Creator, Healer, Protector, Provider, and Defender. It may seem *hard* to obey God—and no one *can* in their own strength—but it *is* possible in *His* strength. Obedience to Bible instruction offers the greatest of all rewards—a Paradise kingdom.

Most *unbelievers* seek the best *advice* concerning *worldly* matters, so the *believer* should seek the best *counsel* in *spiritual* matters from the best *source*—the holy Scriptures. Some think that God will ask them to do something they cannot do—like an employer asking an employee to pay a big company expense without giving them the money. The devil wants us to think that God is asking us to do something we simply cannot do—but we *can* by God’s grace. He supplies the *will* and the *ability* to obey—but we have to make the *choice, first*.

Philippians 2:12 “*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*” We choose to do it first—and God helps us second.

We make the *choice* to believe first, and *then* God gives us the *desire* to *do* His will—as well as the *ability* to carry through as the Word instructs. Our responsibility and choice are to turn our life over to God and be willing to trust Him for all results from obeying His Word. Psalm 37:6 “*He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light*”—God will bring that *result* as we obey His *Word*.

We first make the decision to give our *life*; our *will*; our *desires*; and our *attitudes* to God—placing all of them in His hands as a living sacrifice—throughout every day. If we choose to obey

God in faith, we are then acceptable to Him *by* that faith. Ezekiel 36:27 “*I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*” That is God’s plan of New Testament obedience.

If we have been *unwilling* to do what God has commanded with any issue; or we are *unwilling* to follow New Testament teaching—either thinking it is not necessary to do it; or being reluctant to do it—we must revise our thinking and re-consider God’s *plan for obedience*. He supplies both the *desire and ability*—we just make the *choice* to believe and then *act* in faith.

*Repentance* toward God and *faith* in our Lord Jesus is what obedience is all about. No matter how discouraging Satan makes it seem, the power of God enables us to overcome that temptation.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy 4:8 “*For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness—or meeting things, people, and situations according to God’s will by obeying His Word—is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*” Our life improves here now, and we enjoy Heaven for an eternity later—the greatest of *all* rewards!

Following God’s plan of *trust* on this matter of *obedience* is very beneficial—Paradise is part of the plan. Obedience brings forth spiritual growth—leading toward Heaven. His plan is to become *righteous first*—by trusting in faith on the *merit* of the Blood—and His *Spirit* is the *power*. We are then *able* to obey God’s Word.

Each day we decide to *obey* His Word in *His* strength—and not continuing to disobey as the world would. Romans 6:1 “*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*”

We have no excuse for disobeying the Word concerning anything because Jesus broke the power of sin and removed the spirit of rebellion.

*Faith and obedience are never separated from faith and trust on God.*

Romans 6:4 “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of [an entirely new] life*”—or a new attitude and different way of acting—one that is according to God’s new plan of obedience. We are not asked to obey until the Spirit of Christ is in our heart.

Romans 6:5 “*For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.*” We obey Jesus when we live by the Word—not waiting to see or feel anything—just believing.

We first desire to do God’s will—then we are given the power to do it. Ephesians 3:16 “*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.*”

Not allowing Satan to deceive or discourage us by maintaining our stand of faith in God is vital! We cannot obey the Word in faith until God gives us the ability. We are to Acts 1:4 “*Wait for the promise of the Father.*” The Holy Spirit is always present and comes into our heart to control our life.

Satan is always trying to have us obey in our own strength and then convincing us we cannot do it. He suggests that it is our nature to be like that—but God can change anyone by giving them a new nature. No matter what temperament or disposition we had, the power of God can make us what He wants us to be—obedient to His Word by faith in His power.

Divine power changed the man of Gadara who was controlled by a demon; Divine power converted the apostle Paul from a foe to a follower—God can change anyone. It all begins with repentance and a willingness to believe in faith that we have God’s Spirit within. Ezekiel 36:27 “*I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes.*”

If someone presents an idea to us about something, we usually want to know how it would benefit us if we followed the plan—and the spiritual benefits from obeying the Word of God by faith in Christ, however, is beyond anything our human mind could imagine. God’s Truth and our living by faith in Him is Proverbs 3:14 “*More profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.*”

Obedience to God’s Word by faith will always prove beneficial. Solomon said that the commands; the precepts; and the instructions of the Lord are perfect and always trustworthy. He said Psalm 19:11 “*By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*” Doing God’s will by obeying His Word is 1 Timothy 4:8 “*Profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come*”—the promise of eternity in Heaven!

When we know of the eternal benefits from obeying the Word of God by faith on the merit of the Blood, we will not delay in doing it—asking God to help us follow through. Obeying the Word means forgiving every person. Forgiving means loving Luke 6:35 “*Your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest.*” That command is under New Testament grace—we obey by the Spirit within.

If we need money, we obey the Word to obtain it. If we give to those who ask—expecting nothing in return—God will pour out His financial rewards on us. We should not borrow money

like the world, but trust God in faith to supply additional cash when it is needed—without saying or hinting to anyone. When we trust God in faith for money, He proves faithful to His Word.

Three things—Love your enemies; Do good to them; and Lend expecting nothing back. If we will do this first, God accepts us second, and then He rewards us over and over. The world calls us a loser, but the Lord says we are a winner—and promises a hundred times reward for obeying His Word. It all centers around the attitude in our heart—whether we believe to receive our benefits.

The most unhappy people in the world have the most possessions of the world. James 2:5 “*Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*” What a blessed privilege it is to have the Word of God to guide us on how to actually live by faith. Godliness is always profitable—although seeming unprofitable to the world.

Jesus gave His Truth and He promised enormous rewards. Mark 10:29-30 “*There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time [present life]—with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*”

The vast reward of obedience to the Word of God is beyond calculating!



[www.fcgchurch.org](http://www.fcgchurch.org)

\*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

[info@fcgchurch.org](mailto:info@fcgchurch.org)

#2947 0516 21A

**VIRTUAL**