

**IF YE DO
THESE
THINGS,
YE SHALL
NEVER
FALL**



Lesson Seven

Godliness

2 Peter 1:5-7, 10

- 5 And beside this, giving all diligence,
add to your faith virtue;
and to virtue knowledge;
- 6 And to knowledge temperance;
and to temperance patience;
and to patience godliness;
- 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness;
and to brotherly kindness charity.
- 10 ... give diligence to make your calling
and election sure:
for if ye do these things,
ye shall never fall:



If ye do these things,
ye shall never fall.

Without **faith**, we cannot please God.

Without **virtue**, our faith is dead.

Without **knowledge**, our efforts will be misguided.

Without **temperance**, our knowledge will puff us up.

Without **patience**, we will grow weary in well doing.



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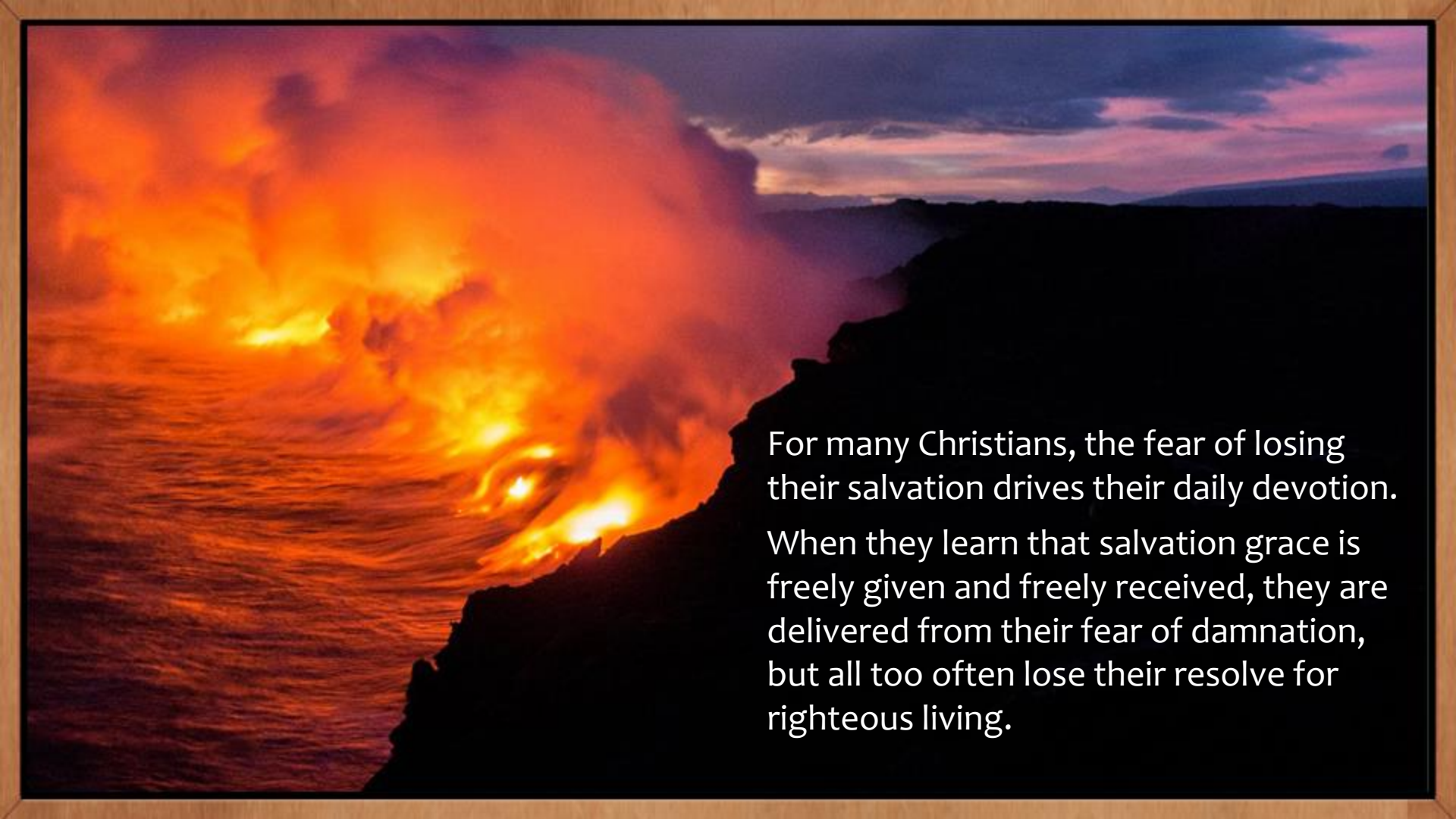
Without **godliness**, we will not see the forest for the trees. We will know his rules more than we know our heavenly Father .



If ye do these things,
ye shall never fall.

A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, yellow, and red clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted cliff or rock formation extends from the bottom right towards the center. The water in the foreground is dark, reflecting the colors of the sky. The overall scene is framed by a thin black border.

For many Christians, the fear of losing
their salvation drives their daily devotion.

A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted cliff or rock formation juts out into the water. The overall scene is atmospheric and evocative.

For many Christians, the fear of losing their salvation drives their daily devotion. When they learn that salvation grace is freely given and freely received, they are delivered from their fear of damnation, but all too often lose their resolve for righteous living.

The situation is made worse by those who teach that grace makes sin permissible.

Jude 1:4

- 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness,** and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.



"Looseness; wantonness"

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Paul asks the right question:

Romans 6:1

- ¹ What shall we say then?
Shall we continue in sin,
that grace may abound?





Romans 6:2

² **God forbid.**

How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?



The grace of God does not encourage sin. It draws men *AWAY* from sin and towards holiness.



Titus 2:11-13

- ¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
- ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;



We need **patience** as we wait for the better world to come.

But how should a Christian conduct his life in this present, evil world?

The answer is found in **godliness**.

Godliness is **the holy response to grace.**

It is **wholesome devotion to God** that is not driven by guilt or fear of consequence, but by reverence, thanksgiving, and LOVE.

Every Christian should be fixated on pleasing God. This is godliness.

Philippians 2:13

¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.



We should want to be transformed into a person more Christ-like than we are presently.

Romans 12:1-2

- ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*
- ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



This is our end-game. We want to know God even as we are known by him.

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This passion for pleasing God is called the fear of the Lord.

Psalm 111:10

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever.



The fear of the Lord leads us away from attitudes that separate us from God.

Proverbs 8:13

¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.



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¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the **froward** mouth, do I hate.

FROWARD: not willing to yield or comply with what is required; unyielding; ungovernable; disobedient;



The fear of the Lord leads us toward a life that allows God in.

Proverbs 16:6

⁶ By mercy and truth
iniquity is purged:
and by the fear of the LORD
men depart from evil.



To walk in the fear of the Lord is to seek a treasure that this world cannot offer.

Proverbs 23:17-18

- ¹⁷ Let not thine heart envy sinners:
but *be thou* in the fear of the
LORD all the day long.
- ¹⁸ For surely there is an end;
and thine expectation shall not
be cut off.



Godliness and Ungodliness

Things that are opposite help define each other. You cannot know what is light is without also knowing what is darkness.

FAST defines slow.
HOT defines cold.
LOUD defines quiet.

SLOW **FAST**
COLD **HOT**
QUIET **LOUD**

Godliness and Ungodliness

From the beginning, God colored this world with contrast:

Isaiah 45:7

I form the light, and create darkness:

I make peace, and create evil:

I the LORD do all these *things*.



Godliness and Ungodliness

In Psalm One, before we learn anything that a godly man *does*, we learn three things he *does not do*.

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man

that walketh not in the counsel of
the ungodly,

nor standeth in the way of
sinners,

nor sitteth in the seat of the
scornful.



Godliness and Ungodliness

The ungodly *as a people* are the unsaved, those who are without Christ.

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Godliness and Ungodliness

The ungodly as a *people* are the unsaved, those who are without Christ.

Romans 5:6

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

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that walketh not in the counsel of
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nor standeth in the way of
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Godliness and Ungodliness

The *counsel* of the ungodly is counsel that is not rooted in the fear of the Lord.

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the man

that walketh not in **the counsel of the ungodly,**

nor standeth in the way of sinners,

nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.



Godliness and Ungodliness

Those who heed this counsel consider God's laws to be a barrier standing in the way of their personal freedom.

Psalm 2:2-3

- ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying,*
- ³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.






Why would anyone prefer darkness to light?

John 3:19-21

- ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.
- ²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.



Isaiah 29:15

Woe unto them that seek deep to
hide their counsel from the LORD,
and their works are in the dark,
and they say,
Who seeth us?
and who knoweth us?

The counsel of the ungodly promises liberty, but leads only to bondage.



2 Peter 2:19

While they promise them liberty,
they themselves are the servants
of corruption:

for of whom a man is overcome,
of the same is he brought in bondage.





2 Peter 2:19

While they promise them liberty,
they themselves are the servants
of corruption:

for of whom a man is overcome, of
the same is he brought in bondage.

“people are slaves to whatever masters them” (NRS).



When man exalts himself over God,
his world turns upside down.

Isaiah 29:16

¹⁶ Surely your turning of things
upside down shall be esteemed
as the potter's clay:
for shall the work say of him that
made it, He made me not?
or shall the thing framed say of
him that framed it,
He had no understanding?



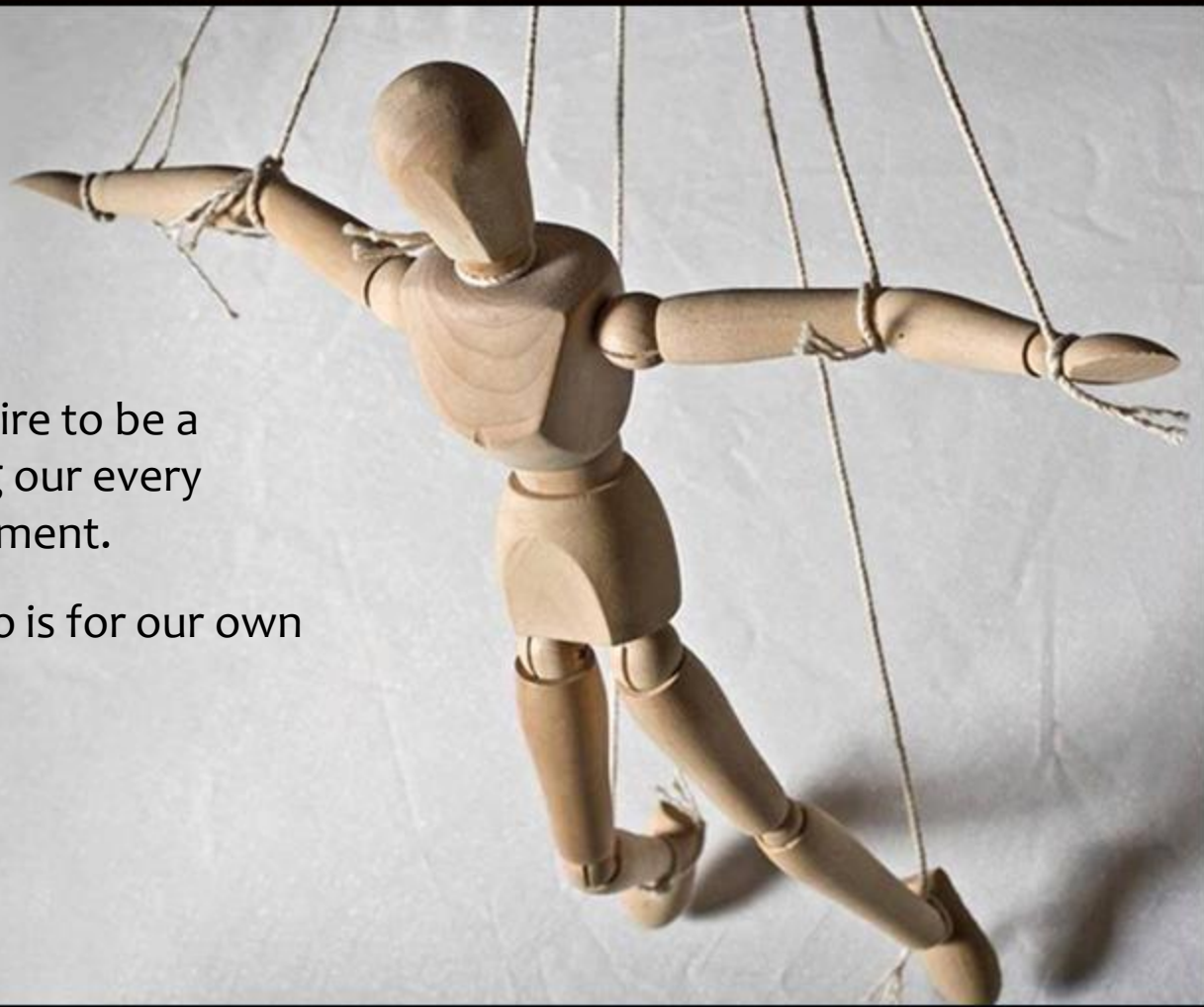


Isaiah 5:20

Woe unto them that call evil good,
and good evil; that put darkness
for light, and light for darkness;
that put bitter for sweet, and
sweet for bitter!

God Almighty has no desire to be a puppet-master, dictating our every move for his own amusement.

Anything he asks us to do is for our own benefit.



Psalm 81:10-16

- ¹⁰ I *am* the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt:
open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- ¹¹ But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me.
- ¹² So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust:
and they walked in their own counsels.
- ¹³ Oh that my people had hearkened unto me,
and Israel had walked in my ways!
- ¹⁴ I should soon have subdued their enemies,
and turned my hand against their adversaries.
- ¹⁵ The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him:
but their time should have endured for ever.
- ¹⁶ He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat:
and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

When we reject his counsel, we frustrate God's attempt to enter our lives.

Jeremiah 7:23-24

²³ But this thing commanded I them, saying,
Obey my voice, and I will be your God,
and ye shall be my people:
and walk ye in all the ways that I have
commanded you,
that it may be well unto you.

²⁴ But they hearkened not,
nor inclined their ear,
but walked in the counsels *and* in the
imagination of their evil heart,
**and went backward,
and not forward.**



Following the counsel of the ungodly is what keeps us conformed to this world and distant from God.

Romans 12:2

² **And be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



We know the condition of our world will only deteriorate – and try to take us down with it.

Jude 1:17-19

- ¹⁷ But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;
- ¹⁸ How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.



Christians will be persecuted for the “crime” of living a godly life.

2 Timothy 3:12-13

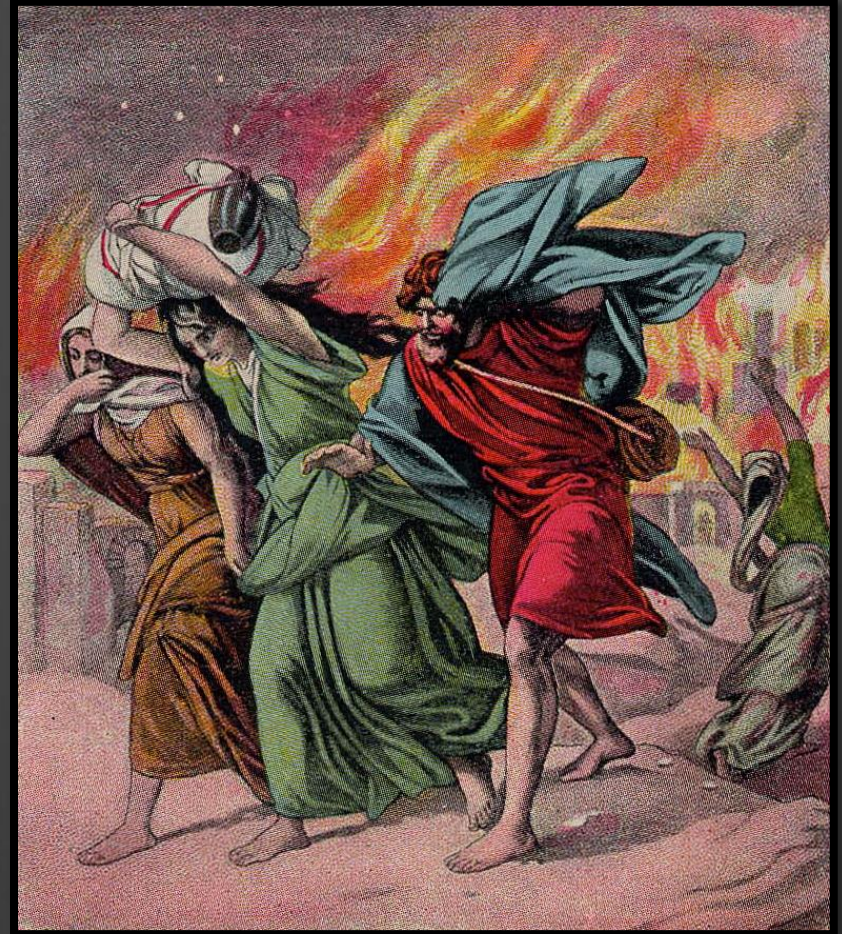
- ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- ¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.



Life on earth is starting to feel more and more like a science fiction movie:

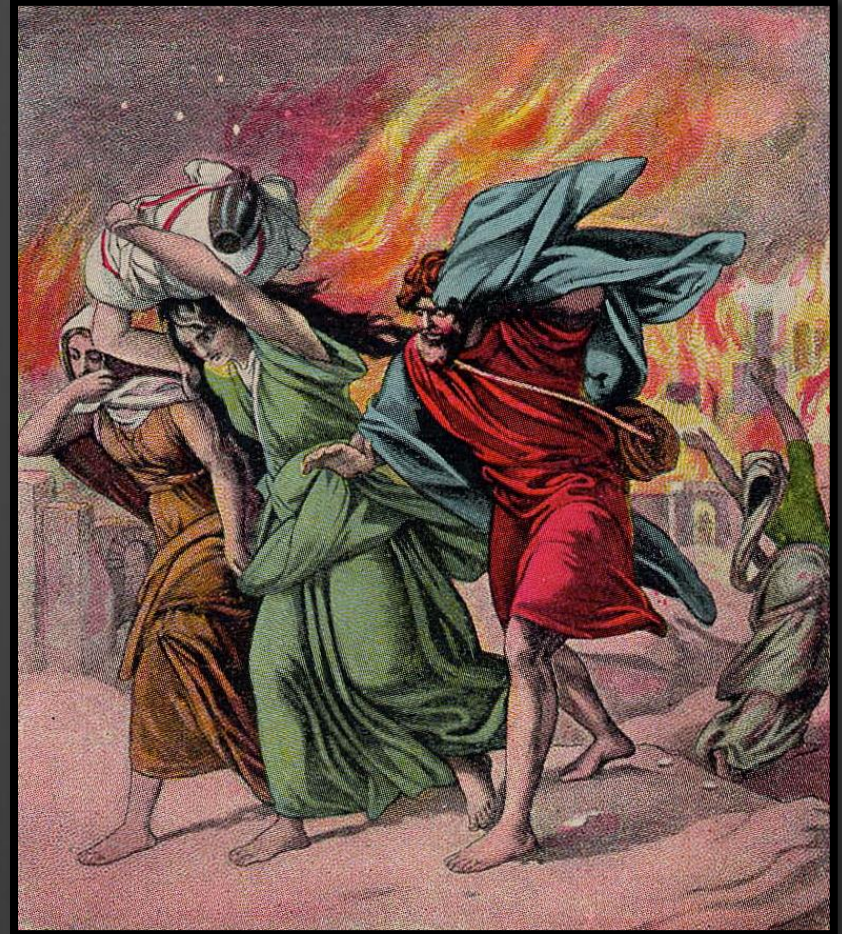


We may feel like Abraham's nephew Lot, "vexed with the filthy conversation [conduct] of the wicked" (2 Peter 2:7).



We may feel like Abraham's nephew Lot, "vexed with the filthy conversation [conduct] of the wicked" (2 Peter 2:7).

But no law of the land can force a godly man to forsake godliness. Society corrupts us only so much as we allow.



Adam and Eve were corrupted while living in Paradise.



Elijah kept his faith even though he lived during the regime of Ahab and Jezebel.



We read three things that a godly man does *not* do.

Psalm 1:1-3

- ¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.



Now we read what he *does*:

Psalm 1:1-3

- ¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- ² **But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**



This is the blessed fruit of Godliness.

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- ¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- ³ **And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**



Godliness characterizes a believer's relationship to the world.
He is *in* this world, but he is not of this world.



Let this be our guiding counsel:

Hebrews 12:28-29

- ²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,
let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with
reverence and godly fear:
²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.



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Up Next:
And to Godliness, Brotherly Kindness



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We might be tempted to isolate ourselves until Jesus returns. But Christ left us a job to do:



Mark 16:15

And he said unto them,
Go ye into all the world, and preach
the gospel to every creature.



God expects us to preach the Gospel,
not restore the kingdom on earth.

We preach Christ in the hope that one
person will repent from their evil deeds
and turn to God.



Some battles are not ours to fight.

2 Timothy 2:4

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.



But we don't want to become so easily offended that we want nothing to do with the unsaved.

1 Corinthians 5:9-10

- ⁹ I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:
- ¹⁰ Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.



The only sinners that Paul gave command to shun were those within the Church!

1 Corinthians 5:11

¹¹ But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a **brother** be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.



It is not our duty to police the world;
our duty is to watch over the Church.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13

- ¹² For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?
- ¹³ But them that are without God judgeth.
Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.



We know that the darker the night,
the brighter our light can shine.

Philippians 2:14-15

- ¹⁴ Do all things without
murmurings and disputings:
¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and
harmless, the sons of God,
without rebuke, in the midst of a
crooked and perverse nation,
among whom ye shine as lights
in the world;

