

Eastern Bible Conference – 2007
Young Adult Bible Study

Godliness
A Topical Study

July 28 – Aug 3

Outline

1. Recapturing the Awe of God – 1Tim 2:5, 3:16
2. In private and public life – 1 Timothy 4:7-16
3. In Service – 1 Timothy 6:11-17
4. In Relationships – 1Timothy 5:1-2
5. With money and great gain – 1 Timothy 6: 3-12

Introduction:

Paul takes a young man Timothy as “his son” and impresses on him the all important truth of godliness. Vines dictionary defines godliness as 1) “devout piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him.” 2) Denotes the fear or reverence of God...3) indicating reverence manifested in actions...

This year’s study will address some questions that have been asked, and some topics that have been suggested from previous years. To use the verses listed as the anchor to speak to our hearts and consciences as we apply the truth of godliness to our lives.

Sunday

Recapturing the Awe of God

1 Timothy 2:5 - “For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

1 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.”

Before we apply the truth of godliness to the areas of our lives there is a real need to recapture the awe of who God is.

The exercise is to contemplate the greatness of who God is; to stand in Awe of Him; recognizing His grace toward us.

The doctrine of God is important to know:

Triune

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen.

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Omnipotence -

Job 42:2 I know that thou canst do every *thing*, and *that* no thought can be withholden from thee.

Psalms 115:3 But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Psalms 135:6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, *that* did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

Isaiah 43:13 Yea, before the day *was* I *am* he; and *there is* none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

Habakkuk 3:6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways *are* everlasting.

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

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Mark 14:36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things *are* possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Revelation 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Omniscient

Job 26:6 Hell *is* naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.

Job 31:4 Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?

Job 34:21 For his eyes *are* upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.

Psalms 147:5 Great *is* our Lord, and of great power: his understanding *is* infinite.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

Omnipresence

Deuteronomy 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider *it* in thine heart, that the LORD he *is* God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: *there is* none else.

Psalms 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art* *there*.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Isaiah 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* my footstool: where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest?

Jeremiah 23:24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD.

Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

Incomparable

“To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?” (Isaiah 40:18 AV)

Holy

Exodus 15:11 Who *is* like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful *in* praises, doing wonders?

1 Samuel 6:20 And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?

Psalms 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God *is* holy.

Isaiah 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.

Ezekiel 39:7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not *let them* pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I *am* the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Habakkuk 1:13 *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?

Revelation 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou only art* holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Examples of men in awe of God...

Moses – Exodus 34:5-8

“And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear [the guilty]; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth [generation]. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and **worshipped.**”

Job – 42: 1-6

“Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every [thing], and [that] no thought can be withholden from thee. Who [is] he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor [myself], and repent in dust and ashes. And it was [so], that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me [the thing that is] right, as my servant Job [hath].”

Hindrances to being in awe:

1. Busy “ness”
2. Distractions
3. Idolatry

Since God can only be known through revelation, we are warned against creating any image or likeness to make as an object of veneration. It attempts to reduce the glory and greatness of God to some thing we can comprehend, and ultimately control.

Tuesday

In private and public life

1Timothy 4:7-16 - “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

A noted politician was confronted with how he could publicly support a policy which went against every thing he personally said he believed. The result is a public policy that perpetuates a grave wrong because the politician would not follow a conviction that was rooted in the truth. The result... The politician is out of office and a bad policy is codified into law. Bad things happen when a discrepancy exists between our private lives and our public persona.

Paul is exhorting Timothy to live his life constantly before the face of God.

Timothy was thrust into public ministry at Ephesus (1Tim 1:3)

Paul outlines the need for godly living in private, away from the spot light in order that there would be effectiveness in Timothy's public ministry.

Discipline – exercise yourself unto godliness

Devotion – devotedness to Christ

- 1) attention to reading,
- 2) attention to exhortation,
- 3) attention to
- 4) Utilizing the gift(s) that you have
- 5) Meditation

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- 6) Wholly committing yourself to them.

2 Corinthians 10:5 – “... and bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”

Renewing of the mind ... Romans 12:1-2

For as he thinketh in his heart so is he... Proverbs 23:7

Public life

- 1) that **thy profiting may appear to all.**
- 2) **be an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**”
- 3) The unmistakable link between private and public life and testimony... Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

Paul was aware of this when he says...

“But I keep under my body, and bring [it] into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (1 Corinthians 9:27 AV)

Wednesday

In Service

1 Timothy 6:11-17 - “But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickens all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep [this] commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen.

The deacon/deaconess is one that serves. The importance of a godly attitude in service is the focus of this discussion.

The servant must:

Flee the things that will distract from service

Follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love patience and meekness

Fight the good fight of faith

Lay hold on eternal life...

Important features for godly service...

Competence –

Humility –

Self Disciplined-

Self controlled -

Honesty

Integrity-

Jesus the best model of a servant – Mark 1:21-45

- Taught with authority – v21-22
(Authority is the Word of God)
- Power – v 23-28
(the power may be of God and not of us 2 Corinthians 4:7)
- Sought no honor for Himself – v36-39
- Dependent – v 35
- Compassionate – v 40-42
- Accessible – v32-34
- Gracious – v 40-44

Thursday

In relationships

1 Timothy 5:1,2 -“Rebuke not an elder, but intreat [him] as a father; [and] the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.”

God is by His very nature relational. The Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit were ever and are ever in relationship.

Godliness in relationship recognizes that God observes our relationships, and in those relationships something of His glory and interest is expressed.

All of the relationships among believers are to be marked, by love.

Part of Christian maturity is coming to the realization that God saves me individually, but places me into important vital relationships that are to reflect some thing special.

Jesus said “By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:35 AV)

He also said ““That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” (John 17:21 AV)

Ephesians 5:21 “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God”

Paul’s instruction to Paul a single young man to be careful in his relationships:

For believing relationships

Older men – respect; do not rebuke – as a father

Young men – as brothers

Older women – As mothers

Younger sisters – as sisters with all purity

Believing employers – Do not despise but do service, with honor

We are a family, and love respect and care should be the markers of our relationships.

Philippians 2:1-5 – The mind of Christ...attitude by which we work in our relationships.

All relationships among believers is tempered by the underlying reality that we all live before God and are recipients of His grace and benefit.

Ephesians 4:25-32

The object of every relationship is that the result of the interaction be for mutual edification, encouragement to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31b).

As singles this is the object, to be a source of edification and encouragement... To pursue individual godliness in all things... recognizing and believing that God knows us better than we know ourselves and will provide what is best that He might be honored from the formation of a new family.

Friday

With Money and Contentment

1 Timothy 6:3-12 - “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, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:3-12 AV)

The devil has created a clever substitute that unfortunately some people in Christianity have embraced... “Great gain with contentment is godliness”. The pursuit of wealth has become the be all and end all of life. Career choices, spousal choices, employment choices are often driven by these factors.

The love of money is the root of every evil (JND).

The godly use of money

- 1) To provide for the needs of yourself (1 Tim 5:8)

- 2) To provide for the need of your loved ones(Family) (1 Tim 5:8)
- 3) For good works (1 Tim 6:18)
- 4) To give to those in need (Eph 4:28b)

Contentment – a mind at rest with its lot; sufficiency of the necessities of life.

The ongoing exercise is to distinguishing the difference between needs and wants.

Philippians 4:11-13 - “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”

Contentment is not related to how much we have materially. The scriptures show both rich and poor being anxious about possessions; and others who were perfectly content... The key is whether we appreciate having Christ for He is enough!

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”