

Sermon Brief, Important Cross References and Quotes, Helpful Links, Fill in the Blank Listening Aid, "How Well was I Listening Questions"

October 17, 2021

Selected Scriptures, "A Disciplined Church"

Sermon Brief:

1. I want to talk with you about priorities.
2. There are lots of things to do. Many of the things we can do are good and some of them are even important. But we are limited people and so we have to make choices. We make choices according to our priorities, and those choices shape the entire direction of our lives.
3. So it's important we have the right priorities.
4. But we are not good at having the right priorities. So we have to go back to God. What does God say should be our priority?
5. One place we find an answer is 1 Timothy 4, where Paul's talking to a young pastor and in verses 6-16 he gives some very specific instructions. This would be a passage you would go to if you want to talk about what it takes to be a faithful pastor, but I don't think it's all just for pastors because Paul tells Timothy in this passage to set an example for believers. So there are parts that are pretty specific to a leader's role but there are also things Paul says that should be true of all of us.
6. Like verses 7 and 8, where Paul talks to Timothy about his priorities. In the middle of the confusion there in Ephesus, Paul's clarifying. He tells Timothy what he should want, why he should want it and how to get it and what he says applies to all of us. This should be what we choose, what we sacrifice for. What should be our priority? You ask Paul in this passage, I think he says, it is to be godly.
7. To help us prioritize godliness, I want us to look at these verses and answer three questions. **First, what is godliness? Second, why is godliness important? And third, how can we become more godly?**
8. To understand what godliness is, we should start with what it is not. When we talk about godliness, some people think primarily in terms of externals. When Paul talks about disciplining yourself to be godly, he's not talking about getting really good at arguing small details that aren't connected to the main point of the Bible or being super passionate about stuff that doesn't matter or getting great at all these extra rules that somebody added to the Bible. Because godliness is not just doing all this stuff that makes you look religious on the outside.
9. It's bigger. It's a heart on fire for God. It's an attitude toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God. When Paul talks about godliness he's talking about showing the proper respect and reverence for God in our lives. Another word you might use to describe what we are talking about when we talk about godliness is the word awe. Godliness is the union of awe and love that is produced by a knowledge of God and of God's benefits. When you think about what godliness means you need to think of GOD in these huge bold print capital letters. Godliness is not just about doing the right things. It's a life where God is where He should be, at the center. For the godly person, God comes first and everything else is supposed to revolve around Him.
10. Why? Why should we make such a big priority out of being in awe of God?

11. Paul gives one big reason here in 1 Timothy 4:8. He says godliness is of value in every way. To prove that he compares it with physical discipline. Physical discipline is very valuable, but godliness is even better because it holds value for this life and the life to come. If you take all the stuff you might want to do and you might say is valuable to do and you compare it with godliness, godliness is much more valuable for both now and later.
12. So how can you pursue godliness?
13. In this text we see there's something to avoid and something to pursue. We are going to focus now on what we should pursue. We are going to focus now on how Paul tells us to pursue godliness. He says discipline yourself for godliness. That's an important statement that gives some helpful direction for becoming godly.
14. First of all, Paul assumes for a believer becoming godly is possible. Second, if it is going to happen, it will require a sense of personal responsibility on your part. Third, you are going to have to commit to a process. And fourth, the most effective training requires some sort of practical plan.
15. What's your plan?
16. If becoming godly is supposed to be our top priority, what specific choices are you making that demonstrate it really is.
17. Let me give four steps you must take if you are going to really making godliness the priority it should be in your life. First, stop filling your mind with worldly sinful things. Second, make worshiping God a regular part of your daily practice. Third, take advantage of all the teaching you can get in your local church. And fourth, pursue intentional biblical friendships.

Important Cross References and Quotes:

1. "You will do the thing of greatest value, if with all your zeal and ability, you devote yourself to godliness alone."
2. "The New Testament word for godliness, in its original meaning, conveys the idea of a personal attitude toward God that results in actions that are pleasing to God."
3. "Godliness is the union of awe and love that comes from a knowledge of God and of God's benefits toward us in Christ."
4. A godly person is someone "who cherishes God as their most precious treasure and regards God as the being of the greatest magnitude and glory in the universe."
5. "Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God...? Away with the word in such a view, with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, danger. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall be revealed in and for us."
6. "It would be worthwhile to be godly if it were only for the pleasantness of it."
7. 2 Peter 1:3-11
8. We can't do anything without the grace of God, but one reason God gives us grace is so that we will do something.

Helpful Links:

1. [John Calvin's Definition of Godliness](#)
2. [A Prayer for Awe](#)

3. [Quotes on the Importance of Awe](#)
4. [Your Walk with God is a Community Project](#)

PowerPoint Presentation [Link](#)

With Fill in the Blanks [Link](#)

Fill in the Blank Listening Aid:

- I. Introduction
 - A. “You will do the thing of greatest _____, if with all your zeal and ability, you devote yourself to _____ alone.”
- II. What is godliness?
 - A. First of all you need to make sure you know what godliness is not.
 1. Godliness is not just doing all this stuff that makes you _____ religious on the outside.
 - B. It’s a _____ on _____ for God.
- III. Why is godliness important?
 - A. Godliness has value in _____ way.
 1. Because it holds value for this life and for the life to come.
- IV. How can you become godly?
 - A. Paul assumes for a believer becoming more godly is _____.
 - B. It will require a sense of personal _____ on your part.
 - C. If you are going to become godly it is going to require work and it is going to involve a _____.
 - D. Most effective training requires some sort of practical _____.
 1. We have to _____ sin.
 2. We have to _____ God personally.
 3. We need to take advantage of all the _____ we can get in our local church.
 4. We have to pursue intentional _____ friendships.

How Well Was I Listening Questions

That's not a great name for this section. But, I thought you could use these questions for your children. I also realized that it might be helpful for you and not just for your children. So, here are some questions you should be able to answer after listening to the message. (If you are using this with your children, please recognize that obviously not all these questions will be suitable for every age. You might have to come up with your own that will more fit their level of understanding. I tried to include a little of both. But if you can answer these questions, then you definitely will be able to do that as well.)

1. What passage of Scripture did we look at today?
2. What is a priority? Why are priorities important?
3. What should be the priority for us as Christians?
4. What are wrong ideas people have about godliness?
5. What is godliness?
6. What does it mean to be in awe of something? Why do you think it is important we are in awe of God?
7. What reasons does Paul give for discipling ourselves to be godly?
8. What are some ways that godliness is good for us now?
9. What does Paul say you need to do if you are going to become godly?
10. What is one specific way you think you could be different as a result of this sermon?