The Gain of Godliness
1 Tim. 6:6

Introduction:
A. It costs to live godly (cf. Lk. 14:28).
   1. Everything (Lk. 14:33)
   2. Persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).
B. It pays to live godly.
   1. Costs are really investments (1 Tim. 6:17-18; Rom.8:18; Phil. 4:8).
   2. A hundred-fold in this life and eternal life to come (Mk. 10:29-30)
C. It pays off in two kinds of dividends: Peripheral and Primary.

Discussion:
I. Peripheral Dividends of Godliness.
   A. Material gain.
      1. The godly are promised life’s necessities (Matt. 6:33; cf. Psa. 37.25).
      2. The Bible teaches traits conducive to business success:
         a. Honesty (Rom. 12:17 KJV)
         b. Industry (2 Thess. 3:10).
         c. Courtesy (1 Pet. 3:8; 1 Cor. 13:5).
   B. Physical gain.
      1. Jesus grew in statue (Lk. 2:52).
      2. The Bible teaches mental attitudes conducive to good health.
         b. Patience, love (2 Pet. 1:6,7) — Circulatory problem from impatience and hatred.
         c. Purity of heart and life (1 Tim. 5:22) — Physical and mental problems from unbridled lust.
         d. Cheerfulness (Phil. 4:4) — Physical problems from gloom and doom.
         e. Not to worry (Mt. 6:25) — Problems from anxiety well known.
      3. The body needs rest and recreation:
         a. The Lord’s day break.
         b. The Lord and his disciples needed some leisure (Mk. 6:31).
   C. Social gain.
      1. Jesus grew in favor of men (Lk. 2:52).
      2. The Bible teaches traits conducive to the favor of good men.
         a. Friendliness, cheerfulness, honesty, self-control, etc.
         b. Living good finds favor with worthy men and some ungodly ones.

II. Primary Dividends of Godliness — Spiritual gain.
   A. The remission of sins (Acts 3:19).
   B. A new life (2 Cor. 5:17).
   C. Access to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:15-16).
   D. Joy and peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:4,7).
   E. Fellowship with the Godhead and fellows Christians (1 John 1:3, 7; 2 Cor. 13:14)
   F. Eternal life in the world to come (Mk. 10:30)

Conclusion:
A. The peripheral gains must not become our prime motivation in serving him (cf John 6:26,17).
B. The primary gains must be our motive while realizing that other gains are added “fringe benefits.”