Present Benefits of Godliness

1 Tim. 4:7-8

Introduction:
   A. Given the work and self-sacrificing, does it really pay to be a Christian and live godly? It pays double!
      1. Unlike bodily exercise, godliness profits all things in this and next life.
      2. It is easier for most of us to see benefits of dying godly, but not of living godly.
   B. Godliness offers wonderful benefits for “the life that now is.”

Discussion:

I. A Life Filled with Unfailing Care. (1 Pet. 5:6, 7).
   A. God’s general and unconditional care for all people. (Matt. 5:45).
   B. God’s special and conditional care for His people. (Matt. 6:33; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 3:12).
      1. Abraham’s “way of escape”. (Gen. 22:9-14)
      2. Joseph and Esther.
      3. The care of Elijah. (1 Kings 17:1-16).
      4. The coming of Titus to Paul. (2 Cor. 7:5-8).

II. A Life Filled with Unusual Wealth. (Mark 10:23-31).
   A. Wealth in heaven - “in the age to come, eternal life”.
      2. Sometimes pray “that will be enough”.
   B. Wealth on earth - “a hundred fold now in this time”.
      1. Have hundreds of houses, lands, etc. among Christians.
      2. Have hundreds of relatives among Christians.

III. A Life of Filled with Unparalleled Happiness.
   A. One must be careful about making happiness his goal in life - will do whatever makes him happy.
   B. One can make godliness his goal in life and find a happiness found in no other lifestyle.
      1. Godliness with contentment. (1 Tim. 6:6; Phil. 4:11).
      2. Peace that passes all understanding. (Phil. 4:4-9).
         b. Can one adequately express the joy of serving God with other Christians? (Acts 2:46,47).
         c. Can one adequately express the joy of seeing others grow in the Lord? (3 John 3,4)
         d. Can one adequately express the joy of helping others to heaven. (1 Thess. 2:19,20).
         a. A hope that is well anchored. (Heb. 6:13-20)
         b. A hope that causes us to rejoice when others cannot. (Heb. 10:34; Acts 5:40-42; 2 Cor 12:10)

Conclusion:
   A. Without life to come, this life would be have little real meaning. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:19).
   B. With life to come, we have the wonderful benefits of living godly in this life as well.