

The Godly Man's Portion & Sanctuary

Lesson 10: Exhortations for the Godly, Part 1

- I. Rejoice! And take heart! The God of peace is with you (Phil 4.9) and all things will undoubtedly work together for your good (Rom 8.28-29). And now, if God is with you in grace, then see that you continue with Him in the obedience of faith, in order that He may also be with you in the comforts and joys of the gospel. The way to do this is to see that the whole course of your life is suitable and answerable to the gospel you profess, Eph 4.1-3; Phil 1.22-2.5.
 - A. Let your life answer the *purpose* of the gospel by living a humble, self-denying, self-abasing, Christ-exalting life, Mt 5.13-20; Gal 2.20; Mk 8.34-35; Lk 14.26-27.
 - B. Let your life answer the dignities and honors of the gospel entrusted to you. You are the children of God, Eph 5.1; the heirs of glory, Rom 8.17; the bride of Christ, Eph 5.27; Rev 19.6-9; a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, the very people of God, 1Pet 2.9-10.
 1. Don't live below who you are. Don't defile your glory by returning to a carnal and earthly life, Col 3.1-4; 1Cor 6.9-11.
 2. Walk in the Spirit and don't make provision for the desires of the flesh which wage war against your soul, Gal 5.16-24; Rom 13.11-14; 1Pet 1.13-19; 2.11-12; 4.1-3.
 - C. Let your life answer the names which the gospel gives you. You are doves, sheep, lilies, Song 5.2; Jn 10.11; Song 2.2. Therefore be harmless, peaceful, gentle, beautiful, and fragrant, sending forth a savor of life into this dead world, Acts 4.13; 2Cor 2.14-17.
 - D. Let your life answer the riches, the reward, the crown, and the Kingdom which are set before you in the gospel, Gen 15.1; 1Sam 26.23; Mt 5.12; Js 1.12; Pr 11.18; 22.4; 2Tim 4.7-8; Js 1.12; Mt 25.34.
 1. Therefore live a *contented* life. Be satisfied with what you have here, whether it's little or much. Don't complain of your portion from God, but believe and profess with David that the lines have fallen for you in pleasant places, Ps 16.5-6; Ps 23.
 2. However little of this earth you have, you have God and His Christ, Gen 17.1; Ps 56.9. Is He not enough, more than enough, enough for two worlds, this one and the one to come?
 3. A discontented Christian, who has God, and with God all he will ever need, effectively says of God that "*He's not enough. For all He is, in the end He's nothing. All in God is vanity,*" Ecc 1.2. Therefore be content and trust God to give you what you need, Phil 4.11-13, 19.
 4. Either you're in the promise of Rom 8.28 or you're not; either the God of peace is with you or He's not. If He's not, then you have more to worry about than your earthly possessions!
 - a) But if He is, and if Christ and the promises are yours, then *all things* are yours, 1Cor 3.21-23. And this is more than enough for two worlds! 1Tim 4.7-10; 6.6.
 5. The worldly man never has enough. Even when he has all he can possess, he's not happy with it when he has it and he's not happy when it fails him. Because all his possessions are cursed with vanity and cannot but leave him empty and unsatisfied, Ps 4.4.
 6. But not so with the Christian, He has *God* for His portion.
 - a) Therefore take an account of your inheritance more and more, count your blessings, Ps 103, meditate on all the privileges of the gospel, learn the promises of God, and feed more on the Bread of Life, the person and work of Christ for you, Eph 1.3-14.
 - b) Press on in godliness in order to experience more and more the blessings of holiness, Phil 4.9; Pr 3.13-18; Ps 1.1-3; Mt 5.3-12. Make the most of the covenant of grace and strive to know the joys and contentment and the peace and the happiness of those of whom this world was not worthy, Heb 11.32-38.