

A GODLY LIFE

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

2 Tim.3:10-11	Rules for godly living	9 rules of godly living (parakoloutheo)
2 Tim.3:12	Repression of godly living	persecution
2 Tim.3:13	Religious verses Christian godly living	deceiving and being deceived

Paul lays down a sure-fire rule or doctrinal principle regarding the desire to live a godly life – **you will be persecuted!**

“And indeed, **all** who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Tim.3:12)

The Greek word for desire is thelo. Thelo refers to a stable emotional desire based on the assurance of the sovereignty of God’s word (Rom.4:21).

However, the issue that Paul is addressing is not just being a Christian, but a being a Christian that
DESIRES TO LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS.

This lesson will study five aspects of the importance of the Godly Life in Christ in the Devil’s world without being religious.

1. The Greek word for godly is normally eusebia. It is a compound word consisting of eu (well) and sebeia (devout, piety).

It is a God conscious attitude found in unbelievers like Cornelius – “A devout man (eusebes), and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people, and prayed to God continually.” (Acts 10:1-2) (Matt.23:14-15)

In carnal believers, it becomes “holding to a form of godliness, although they denied its power; and avoid such men as these.” (2 Tim.3:5)

In spiritual believers, it occurs in those who have spiritually matured to appreciate God’s grace and to have a desire to live godly no matter what the circumstances (undeserved suffering) - “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.” (2 Tim.3:1)

2. Paul mentions 9 doctrinal areas that are important to godly living during difficult times (Rom.5:3-5).

the doctrine (te didaskalia)	the conduct (te agoge)	the purpose (te prothesis)
the faith (te pistis)	the patience (te makrothumia)	the love (te agape)
the perseverance (te hupomone)	the persecutions (tois diogmos)	the suffering (tois pathema)

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” (Rom.8:37)

3. Paul explains that there are two sides to godly living in the plan of God during difficult times.

One side of the plan of God regarding godly living is “such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured (hupophero/ a.a.ind/ to bear up under tribulation).” (2 Tim.3:11)

The other side of the plan of God regarding godly living is “And out of them ALL the Lord delivered (rhuomai/ a.a.ind/ to drag out of danger) me!” (2 Tim.3:11; 2 Cor.11:23-28)

4. Paul reminds Timothy that living a persecuted godly life in the devil’s world will require spiritual growth maturity by sitting under a spiritually mature pastor-teacher – “But you follow my” (2 Tim.3:10).

Why do you study the word of God? Read what Paul said to Timothy (2 Tim.3:10-11) –“**But you follow** (parakoloutheo / a.a.ind.2ps) [to be on the same page doctrinally with other like-minded].”

“In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, **constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.** But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” (1 Tim.4:6-7)

5. Paul offered a strange promise to spiritual advancing believers:

“And (kai) [emphatic position of conjunction] indeed (de) [adversative conjunction] all who desire (hoi thelo / p.a.ptc.nplm) **to live** (zao / p.a.infin) [functional CWL] **godly** in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (dioko / f.a.ind.3pl).” (2 Tim.3:12)” (2 Tim.3:12a)

Paul interjected two conjunctions in an unusual manner (**and indeed**) to make an important doctrinal point.

Write out the doctrinal point_____.

Does it sound like a strange recruiting line for Christianity?

But here is the truth about the godly life!

“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘a slave is not greater than his master.’ If (1cc) [true] they **persecuted** Me, they will also persecute you; if (1cc) [true] they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” (John 15:20)

“**Blessed** are you when men cast insults at you, and **persecute** you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matt.5:11-12)

“**Bless** those who **persecute** you; bless and curse not.” (Rom.12:14) [Jesus] (Luke 23:34) [and Stephen] (Acts 7:60)

“When we are reviled, we **bless**; when we are **persecuted**, we endure.” (1 Cor.4:12b)

“**Blessed** is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive **the crown of life**, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)