

The Godly Man's Portion & Sanctuary

Lesson 15: Exhortations for the Godly, Part 6

For several weeks now, we've been considering a "general exhortation" that *our daily conduct be answerable and suitable to the gospel we profess*. And we've learned that it should be suitable to 1) the *purpose* of the gospel which has called us, 2) the *dignities and honors* of the gospel entrusted to us, 3) the *names* which the gospel gives us, 4) the *riches, reward, crown, and Kingdom* set before us in the gospel, and 5) the *supports* of the gospel—which is where we learned of the amazing grace of *patience*. And now we come to the last part of this general exhortation, and it is this: that we strive to see that our lives answer *the spirit of holiness* which the gospel has poured upon us—which is to say, we're to see that our lives are *gracious and holy lives*.

- I. Let the grace of the gospel *be visible* in your life. Admire the grace of God which has saved you and in turn, let His grace be admired in you. It's the exhortation of Peter in 1Pet 2.9-12.
 - A. Let His grace be seen in you in its *purity*. –Walk in pure paths before men, as those separated from the world and from the lusts of men. Keep yourself upright in the sight of God and unspotted by the world in which you live. Strive to walk as Daniel did, such that men will have no charge to bring against you unless they find it in connection with the law of God, Dan 6.5. And we do this in two ways:
 1. By keeping ourselves from our own sins and casting the Delilahs out of our hearts. "You must part with your darling or your God."
 - a) Let no sin be your leisure or your protection. And if, when you're being overtaken by suffering, any sin beckons you like Jael beckoned Sisera to "Turn aside," remember the hammer and the tent peg, Jdg 4.17-21.
 - b) Let no sin find a corner in your heart or life to lodge in quietness, lest you think you can lodge with sin in a corner safely.
 - c) Say to all your sinful delights and sinful hopes, "Be gone! I will neither love you nor trust you." Because however sin may please you and whatever it may promise you, you can be sure you'll find a sting in its tail and a stain upon your soul if you play with it, Rom 6.23.
 2. By keeping ourselves from the sins of others. Beware of being drawn away into the errors of others, Mt 16.11-12; Eph 5.3-8. "Let sinners come up to you, but don't you go down to them," Ps 1.1-2.
 - B. Let His grace be seen in you in its *power*.
 1. Grace is a living principle, a seed of God that abides, affects, and endures, 1Jn 3.9. Neither a summer blight nor a winter frost can kill it because it draws upon the undying life of God Himself.
 2. All the fury of earth and hell are bent on *staining your life and your conscience*, therefore see that you live in such a way that proves your grace to be *of God*, Js 2.18, by persevering in the power of His life. Let the devil and the world see that you would rather suffer than sin, be destitute than ungodly, be persecuted than defiled, and be abased than corrupted.
 - C. Let grace *ripen and mature* toward glory.
 1. Fan your spark into a flame, 2Tim 1.5-7. Cultivate your mustard seed into a mighty tree, Mk 4.31-32. One of the best ways to do this is in community with one another, Heb 10.23-25.
 2. Let all the devil's persecutions be spurs in your side to quicken your pace in the race, Phil 3.12-14. Let his afflictions be the death of your fleshly lusts so that your graces can thrive all the more, 2Cor 12.7-10.

3. Let every season be a growing season, 2Pet 3.18. Strive that every day will be a day that you draw closer to God, become more like Jesus, and excel in holiness. Work to see that every affliction, every experience, every suffering, leave a blessing in its wake, Heb 12.11. To encourage you in this, consider:
 - a) When our graces are weak, our sins easily prevail over us.
 - b) When our graces are weak, our afflictions easily subdue us.
 - c) When our graces are weak, God's withdrawals easily undo us.
 - d) When our graces are weak, our doubts and fears easily terrify us.
 - e) Therefore see that you grow in grace, because when our graces are strong, the devil and our sins, and all our trials, are easily overcome, Pr 8.14; 1Jn 3.12-14; Eph 6.10-18.
 4. Live above carnal things, Gal 5.24; Rom 13.13-14.
 - a) Live above carnal delights.
 - (1) Strive to find increasing joy in spiritual things, Ps 37.4; 73.25-26. "Let the fashions and pleasures and delights of the world be so much beneath your spiritual joy, that your joy is neither abated when you don't have them nor increased when you do, 1Cor 7.31.
 - (2) Strive to fix the eyes of your faith on all that is yours in God and in His heaven: the everlasting treasures of light, holiness, goodness, mercy, and grace, the eternal pleasures of rest, peace, and joy, the tree of life whose very leaves are for the eternal healing and health of the inhabitants of that holy place, the hallelujahs and praises that will fill the hearts and mouths of countless angels and men, and the all-glorious vision and fruition of your God, the God of all grace and glory and joy, 1Pet 1.3-6.
 - (3) Look upon these things as your eternal inheritance and say to your soul, "*Come now my soul, take your rest here, for all of this is yours because God is yours.*" Look and love, love and long, long and hope, hope and rejoice in hope of this glory of God, Rom 5.5. Look on your God and never look away until you're satisfied with His image and changed into His image, from one glory to another, 2Cor 3.18.
 - b) Live above carnal discouragements.
 - (1) Don't be discouraged by adversities, dangers, or persecutions, 2Cor 4.16. Let the joy of your Lord be your strength, let His love be your shield, let your hope be your confidence, and fear neither duty nor danger, for the Lord is with you in the one as much as in the other. *Dwell in your hope by faith and you won't be afraid to dwell in your duty by obedience* because faith is a quickening, growing, overcoming grace.
- II. There can be no *general* course of Christianity unless it's supported *particularly* in our daily walk. So lastly, we'll look at several particular directions for godly living.