

Date: November 5, 2023
Pastor: Mike Koot
Series: Everything We Need
Scripture: 2 Peter 1:3-11
Message: Godliness

1. Sunday Summary:

This Sunday we continued our sermon series we're calling *Everything We Need*. It's a series about how we grow in grace, and we already have everything we need to do it. However, in spite of that we're called to add virtues to our lives, and when we do, we'll really find the full life Jesus offers us. This week we looked at adding the virtue of Godliness. We looked at three things:

- 1) What Godliness Is – the Greek word for godliness (eusebeia) actually means appropriate devotion, or devotion or commitment to what God deserves. As creator and Lord of the Universe he deserves our everything. But, our God only wants our devotion that's driven by love, and so he doesn't start by asking us for anything, but first by giving us everything we need – a super-abundance of his grace and love. When we see how much he loves us our devotion and love will follow.
- 2) The Content of Godliness – 1 Timothy 3:16 gives us the content of godliness: "Beyond all question the mystery of godliness is great: he appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory." This is the recipe for godliness. We do what Jesus did. Just as Jesus did, we make God personal for others. We don't worry about managing our image, we're just interested in helping people know and serve Jesus. We recognize that we live in a spiritual realm and have spiritual help and spiritual enemies. We recognize that all people and nations and tongues need the goodness of the gospel. And finally, we do good in this life, by remembering that we're bound for the next.
- 3) The How of Godliness – in other words how do we get godliness into our lives? The short answer is, Jesus. The way to godliness is to cling to Jesus, remembering his sacrifice for us. And we rest in that!

2. Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)

- Talk about a time someone has told you that you need to change something about yourself or some behaviour. How did you handle that? If you're feeling brave, share one thing you think God is asking you to change to become godlier.

- Think about the godliest person you know. What in your opinion makes them godly, and how does that compare with the list from this morning's sermon?

- Talk about this: Are godly people boring people?

- What do you think keeps you from becoming a godlier person?

- What from today's message was most helpful for you?

3. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)

- Think together about some stories from the Bible where godliness is highlighted. What are the benefits of godliness from these stories?

- Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5 together. Paul says in the last days people will be "...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of godliness but denying its power." Do you see that today in the world? Do you see it in the church? And what does Paul mean by "having a form of godliness but denying its power?" First, what do you suppose a "form of godliness" means? Next, what sort of power does real godliness bring?

4. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)

- What will you do to lean into the virtue of godliness? What actions will you take to cling to Jesus more and more in your life this week?

- How will the adding godliness to your faith effect your prayer and devotional life this week?

5. Resources for Further Study:

1. Buchanan, Mark. *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Secret of More*. Thomas Nelson: Nashville, TN 2007

