

## **IT PAYS TO LIVE GODLY: Prosperity & Persecution**

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- **We are to accept the truth that godliness is profitable in this life-1Tm4:8**-*Godliness is profitable unto all things, have promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come (EX-Serving God brings you blessings in this life and in the future life)* **9 AC**-*This saying is reliable and worthy of complete acceptance by everybody*
  - We are supposed to say continually. God has pleasure in my prosperity-Ps35:27-*Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yea let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant*
  - Many fight against it-They say God doesn't care about our prosperity, never promised us a good life
- **Many reject this idea of godliness profiting us (prosperity) in the name of persecution/trials**
  - Many believe because we are told we would be persecuted and experience challenges that means we are not promised prosperity-2Tm3:12-*All that live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution; Jn16:33*-*In the world you shall have tribulation*
  - Prosperity doesn't mean no challenges, no attacks, no persecution-It means victory over them all
  - Jesus taught prosperity with persecution-Mk10:29-*There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,<sup>30</sup> But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life*
- **Living godly doesn't ensure that you never face a challenge, but if we will live godly we can be helped, delivered and enjoy victory over every challenge**
  - People try to use Paul's life in their attack against prosperity, but he was a prosperous man-2Tim3:11-*Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me; 12 All that will live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution; Ac16:25*-*At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to Go*
  - Christianity done right is a victorious existence-If you paint Christianity as a struggling, persecuted, impoverished defeated existence you do so at the expense of the scripture-**Ph4:10**-*But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were*

also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. <sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. <sup>18</sup> But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God; **Rm8:35**-Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us; **2Cor4:8**-We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

- Godliness should be profiting you-You shouldn't be living under the devils thumb day after day