

## Introduction:

*1 Timothy 4.8-9*, Most of us do things we deem to be profitable or advantageous. It may be in the short term or long term. It may be directly to us or indirectly to our loved ones. In our text, Paul compares "Physical exercise" and "Spiritual exercise". Greater emphasis is on the spiritual and on that which is to come, although there is short term profit to being a Christian. But this raises some questions: "How does it pay?" "What gain is here is godliness?"

### I) You Can Be Sure That It Pays, It is Profitable (Advantageous)

#### A) Jesus promised that it would pay, *Mark 10.28-30*

1. This is not the primary reason for following Jesus, *John 6.26,27*.
2. Some people would lose everything in following Christ.
3. But we are promised the necessary things of life, *Matthew 6.33*.

#### B) Godliness includes

1. Honesty, treating others properly *Romans 12.17*, being consistent and open before people, *2 Corinthians 8.21*.
2. Being hard working, *1 Thess. 4.11* it is remarkable how many successful people simply worked at their task. A lot of people respect others who show up for work and do their best, *2 Thess. 3.10*.

3. Stewardship-- Valuing what you have and not being wasteful, *John 6.12,13*. Poverty comes to those who do not appreciate what they have and don't take care of it.
4. Practicing these things will make one successful in material things.

**II) Godliness is Profitable In The Physical Realm, (Our physical lives as opposed to our things)**

**A) How can godliness make your life better physically speaking?**

1. Godliness involves things like-how we think and what we think upon, *Phil. 4.8*
  - a. A person who can control their thoughts can avoid a lot of costly mistakes.
2. Self-control, to master one's impulses, *Phil. 4.5*.
  - a. Think of the problems people create for themselves, injuries, hurt relationships, physical abuse.
3. Not to worry, be overly anxious about tomorrow, *Phil. 4.4,6*.
  - a. Have you ever met a happy worrier? Worry is expecting the worst possible goal!

**B) Generally speaking, a life free of worry and excesses or all things make for better health.**

**III) Godliness is Profitable, Socially**

**A) The Bible teaches us to be friendly, *Pro. 18.24***

1. We are to be tender hearted, caring about our fellow man, *Ephesians 4.32*
2. Courteous, polite as one thinks about others, considers the needs of others, *Phil. 2.4.*
3. To control one's tongue, *Col. 4.6.*

**B) These things makes us socially better off, *Prov. 16.7.***

1. Society is blessed when people are friendly and care about each other.
2. Society is blessed when people say things like "thank you" and "would you" instead of just do this.

**IV) Godliness is Profitable In the Spiritual Realm**

**A) Obedience to the Lord brings "forgiveness of sins" *Acts 2.38***

1. Those who's sins are forgiven are in a better position that those in sin.
2. Those in the church are better off than those outside the church, *Acts 2.47.*

**B) God listens to the prayers of the godly, *1 Peter 3.12.***

1. We need God when we have love one's who are sin and/or facing death.
2. There will be times in our lives when we won't know what to do or how to go onward but we can ask God for help.

**C) Godliness helps understand the things of God, *1 Corinthians 2.14.***

D) Grants us a peace that surpasses understanding,  
*Phil. 4.7.*

Godliness pays now, but...

V) Godliness Never Quits Paying ( It has eternal payment)

A) Jesus said, "Great is your reward in heaven" *Rev. 21.1-4.*

Conclusion:

God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, *Heb. 11.6.*