

Gaining Ground

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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Reading: False Teachers and the Love of Money (1 Tim. 6:2-10)

Life gives us a ground which we either gain or lose. We lose our ground when we lose our stability in life; consequently, we suffer a great deal, and making up for it is always difficult. St. Paul tells us about what we can do when we feel we are getting less in life. Despite all our sufferings, godliness is a way to make us grow; be contented; and move ahead in life.

How Do We Gain Ground?

I. Godliness

1. The word 'godliness' was translated from the original Greek word '*eusebeia*' which means well and awe (or awareness) for God.
2. Godliness is about God.
 - 2.1 Godliness comes from God and has nothing to do with us. It is an awareness that God is the creator of all things and the most important.
3. Godliness is God-awareness, and it is our 'awe' in our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 3.1 We stand in awe as we become aware of God's unconditional and selfless love. He gave us His only Son so that we will not perish (Jn. 3:16).
 - 3.2 Godliness is an awe of who our God is and what He has done.
 - 3.3 King Solomon was aware of God. He had wealth and wisdom. He had nothing else to ask for, but he still stood in awe of God and humbled himself before Him (Ecc. 5:2).
4. Godliness gives us confidence.
 - 4.1 Our awareness of God makes us feel accepted and loved.
5. Godliness brings us peace.

II. Godliness with Contentment

1. Once we stand in awe of God, we become contented.
 - 1.1 As humans, we crave for contentment with conditions. We put up certain criteria such as things in their proper order, etc.
 - 1.2 Jesus's kind of contentment does not have conditions.

III. Godliness with Contentment is a Great Gain

1. We have great gain when we are contented and aware of God.
 - 1.1 The Bible says that great gain is wealth. However, we must not let the things of this world steal our godliness and contentment.
 - 1.2 We tend to pursue more of that great gain or wealth. We move into phases in life that we crave and long for what is temporal. The scripture says that this will lead to many sorrows.
 - 1.3 The proper order is to love God and appreciate money.
 - 1.4 Wealth is not about temporal things, but the things we can bring with us when we die. And that is our relationship with Jesus.

Believe in the truth that godliness with contentment is great gain. Stand in awe of God, and you will gain your ground.

Reflection: What should you do when you are losing your ground? What should you do to move ahead in life?

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