

## The Imperative of Godliness

2 Peter 1:6\*

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*"in your faith supply moral excellence and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,"*

The readers are also called to "godliness" (*eusebeia*). Another connection is forged with vv. 3–4 because believers have, by God's grace, already been given everything they need "for life and godliness" (1:3). Christ has given believers everything to be godly, and yet believers must pursue godliness. The term godliness refers to piety or, more simply, to living a life that is like God.<sup>3</sup>

When we exhibit and develop these traits in our lives then we are bearing fruit. Primarily, these are character traits, not activities, although if the Christlike characteristics are present then they will surely affect and transform our actions.<sup>4</sup>

- Godliness begins and ends with Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 3:16)
  
- Godliness is based on the true teaching about Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 6:3-4)
  
- Godliness should be seen in the lives of believers (2 Pet. 3:11)  
See also 1Ti 2:2; 6:11; Tit 2:12
  
- Godliness is valuable in both this world and the next (1 Tim. 4:8)

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\* These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 300.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Transformed by His Glory* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1990), 108.