

**A Practical Study of Titus**  
**Growth Toward Godliness**  
**“Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”**

**Study Number Two – The Picture of Godliness –  
Titus 1:5-9**

We’re talking about “Growth Toward Godliness.”

In our first study I shared with you the fact that there is much being said about Christian experience, about becoming a Christian. And it’s almost like we’re eager to get people in the family but we’re not quite so eager to tell them what they need to do once they become a part of the family to cooperate with the Spirit of God who is endeavoring to produce Christlikeness or the godly lifestyle.

That emphasis is strangely absent in much of our Christian writing these days. It’s almost like “let’s get everybody in the family but we don’t have time to sit down and really become godly or to know that He’s God.”

I gave you a process last week that comes out of verse 1. And for you that are new tonight, if you want to underline the three words in verse 1 of study number 1 that capsulized the study, you’ll find it in the word FAITH, in the word TRUTH, and in the word GODLINESS.

If you're to put down three words that summarize the godly lifestyle, there it is. Here's the process.

We've come to FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ, that's the beginning point. That issues an insatiable for the Word of God.

An authentic new birth experience will be accompanied with an appetite for TRUTH.

Jeremiah said:

Jeremiah 15:16

Thy words were found and I did eat them. And thy word was the joy and rejoicing of my heart.

From FAITH to TRUTH—the result of my exposure to truth and my obedience to it—produces GODLINESS.

Well I put it with THREE F'S:

from FAITH to FOOD to FRUIT.

Now the obvious question that comes before us today is—alright flesh it out for me. I mean, what's it look like when it's in a person. What can I expect to look like as God begins to do His work and I begin to be exposed to His Word? How will I start to begin to look?

We're living in a society that when we want something, we want it yesterday. For instance, we begin to feel like we're getting a little bulgy, a little pudgy around the middle. We want to go on a crash instant diet that will cause us to lose 40 pounds in 4 days. And if we don't do that, then we give up and quit and go back to eating all the desserts and everything else and it isn't worth it. Now that's usually the way we approach losing weight.

Now the same thing is true about physical fitness.

I'm really not in such bad shape. And the guy walks us through the machines and for the next week we act like we're walking on eggs because everything we've got hurts. And we get discouraged because we're not physical specimens like we once were. And we don't want to pay the price of being productive and being physically fit.

Now the same thing is true of godliness. When we realize we're getting a tad bit behind in this godly business, we're getting too wrapped up the world, and we haven't had much time to be in the Word or go to church and Sunday school and be involved in growth and godliness, we want to catch up.

And the tragedy is, there are a bunch of people running around who are trying to tell us they've got an instant package of godliness.

I mean, you walk the aisle, raise your hand, cry a little and whoop it up a tad and you're going to be a spiritual giant overnight. I mean there are people who promise that. And usually it ends up as a bunch of sound and fury signifying nothing.

And I have found that it has turned off more than it is turned on many men who are scared to death that they're going to have to become some kind of a nut to suddenly become godly. And that is a far cry from what you're going to see in the study today.

The picture of godliness in this study is what all of you'd like to be like, if I think I know that you're normal, red-blooded human beings. The only problem is, some of you've already arrived there and you're going to come up and ask for new assignments after we get through. You know really, when we get through, you're going to feel like I did when I first walked through these words.

Well Lord, we've come a long way but man we've got a long way to go in the work to produce what we look at in this study.

Alright there's a principle.

Godliness is a process. It takes time. It is a time word.

Hypocrisy is being something you're not and that's basically what people are doing who are trying to cover up the fact that they're not very godly.

The qualities that we're going to look at in just a minute are produced in the lives of those who take time to be in the Word of God on a daily basis and become sensitive to the desires of the heavenly Father and the indwelling presence of the Spirit who produces these changes in our lives.

Paul warned Timothy that there would be those in the last days who had a form of godliness but they were denying the power thereof. I think we're witnesses of that all about us.

Now what I'd like to do is look at verse 5, first of all, and that is Titus' job description for the island of Crete. And then out of this will fall the 15 characteristics of the godly life. So we're going to put a picture before us of the godly life.

Now you ladies just because this talks about men, don't pass out on me and don't turn me off. Just realize that you apply each of these to yourselves as well as we work our way through it.

Verse 5.

**v. 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, in order that you might set in order the things which remain, and appoint elders in every city as I direct you,**

Paul left Titus, his "true son in a common faith"—we saw that last week—on the island of Crete to do TWO THINGS:

1. “[to] set in order the things which remain”

Now what did he mean by that? There’s a clue to that when we look at the Thessalonian epistle. Paul, when he’s writing to the Thessalonian Christians in 1 Thessalonians 3:10 says:

### 1 Thessalonians 3:10

I long to come to you that I might supply what is lacking in your faith.

What happened to Thessalonica is that Paul’s ministry was interrupted. He was only there six weeks and he did all he could to say as much as he could and to teach them the best possible way but persecution drove him out of the city.

And when he writes the order back he says:

Twice I tried to come to you, to be with you, but Satan hindered us. Through one thing or another I was unable to come. But now I’m writing to supply what is lacking in your faith. (1 Thess. 2:18)

Paul evidently had some definite teaching that he wanted to get across to people who responded to faith. And those basic teachings were the outline that were basic for anybody beginning to walk with the Lord and to develop an effective Christian life, or a godly lifestyle.

So the first thing that Titus has to do is to teach both with his lip and with his life what the godly life looks like to these Christians who are there on the island of Crete.

Then he says, secondly:

2. “appoint elders in every city as I direct you,”

Evidently the apostle Paul moved around in his ministry and he had these fellows moving around in ministry. And he always looked for leaders in the area. And he committed himself to those leaders.

Then, when he pulled out, those leaders carried on. And although he is describing what he wants in that leadership, the epitome of these people that are being looked for are the epitome of the godly lifestyle.

This is really what you ought to begin to look like as God begins His good work in your life.

And you know some of you guys maybe that are here and gals too that have been a little bit turned off about what you see about Christianity, this is the goal of it. I mean, this is where the real stuff is. This is what it really looks like. This is what it should really look like.

So I hope you're attracted to it. I hope you really like it when you get through and that the Spirit of God really speaks to you about the fact that maybe you need to change your ideas

and your suppositions about what it is to become a Christian and to begin to really walk with God.

Now there's another list of these characteristics and it's in First Timothy chapter 3 and if you want to just put a little note out to the side "see 1 Timothy 3" you're going to have there some of the very basic things that are herein described in verses 6-9.

Alright, now we're going to start in verse 6 with the GOALS FOR THE GODLY.

By the way, if you really get turned on about this and excited, I suggest you just write these down on a little sheet of paper and stick it up beside your mirror and begin to check yourself off on a daily basis to see where you're flowing in this. And see how well you're doing. It's a good thing to do.

Verse 6.

**v. 6 if a certain man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who are believers, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.**

Alright, now you notice Paul doesn't say "Well a guy's got to have the gift of teaching or administration or all of those things." He's more concerned about the man's reputation and his character than about what that particular man might be able to do.



And he starts out with that number one and he says this man should be:

1. “above reproach”

Now it doesn't communicate too much. What does that mean—“above reproach”?

Well, Philips translates it with “unquestioned integrity.”

Gene Getz was meeting with a group of businessmen in Dallas and they came across this characteristic and Gene says “Alright guys, what does that mean to you.” And they came up with a list of 31 characteristics of a man who lives above reproach.

I've made the list. Here it is:

1. He's loveable.
2. He's honest. You could trust him with your bank account.
3. He's sensitive.
4. He radiates Christ.
5. He's a good father.
6. He loves people, his wife and his children.
7. He works hard.
8. He's a humble guy.
9. Keeps his word.
10. He's not self-centered.
11. Makes you feel comfortable.

12. You could recommend him for most any task.
13. He doesn't let you down.
14. Won't take advantage of you.
15. He's not an opportunist.
16. Doesn't use people for his own ends.
17. He knows where he's going.
18. He plans ahead.
19. He's thoughtful and cordial.
20. He's fair.
21. He's a good steward of time and talent.
22. Doesn't lose his cool.
23. He's consistent.
24. He recognizes and respects authority.
25. Hangs in there and perseveres.
26. Admits when he's wrong.
27. And he's teachable.
28. He doesn't have a martyr complex.
29. He's honest.
30. You know what he's thinking and he uses great discretion with whom he says what.

*(The Measure of a Man by Gene Getz, paraphrased)*

You know when you look at those things, you almost feel like those suggestions epitomize all the rest of them. And you come to the conclusion that this first characteristic of godliness is like an umbrella and all these other things just kind of flow under it.

And that might be true, when a godly person is a man who has unquestioned integrity.

Number two— isn't that something? You came today and you've got to listen to fifteen points and you can figure it out how long it's going to take and I know you're just probably thinking "Oh my goodness, what have I gotten into?" Hang in there. We'll be alright.

The second characteristic is:

2. "the husband of one wife"

Now we have done a great disservice to our divorced community along this line. For many, many years in the church of Jesus Christ, we have almost put down divorce as the unpardonable sin.

And I have great problem with that. I don't think divorce is even in this quality. In fact, some of the dearest and most godly people I know, some of the most productive in the Bible class ministry have been couples who've had problems and this in their background. But boy they have forgotten those things which are behind and they have been some of the most godly, most challenging, and productive folks I've seen out in the field, contacting people and touching them with the Gospel of Christ.

I think we do a disservice here. We've got to almost manipulate the Greek text. The Greek text says the godly person is a "one-woman man."

Now that had to be said in the first century because a man could satisfy his sexual desires with the slave girl, with the temple prostitutes, with his own wife, and there wouldn't be much question about it.

Paul says the godly life is manifested by devotion to one woman and to one woman alone.

Sexually the man is related to one woman and one woman only. That needs to be said in the twentieth century, if you've been around that, because that almost sounds outdated doesn't it? But the godly person has learned what it is to accept the responsibility for a member of the opposite sex and to commit him or herself with undying devotion and love, till death us do part, to that one that they've grown to love.

### 3. "having children who are believers"

Now what does that mean? That means that your kids have seen your life and the acid test of the Christian life is where? It's at the house. And they've seen your life and they know your walk with God, that it's real. It's affected the way you've lived and they, too, respect you for that. And they have in turn responded to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and have come to know Him as Savior.

There's no more sheer delight than to see one's children come to that moment of acceptance of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The godly life will manifest itself in the kids in the house.

Doesn't mean they won't rebel against it. The pressures of the world around eat their lunch when they get away from there and there're going to be hassles and there're going to be rough times. That doesn't reflect upon you. It reflects upon the culture that they live in. Just hang in there, keep praying for them, and the Lord will protect them and put a hedge around them and things are going to get better as you go along. Just keep realizing that you haven't lost the war. Maybe you're just a few battles there that you're having a little rough time. Hang tough and it's going to get better.

The fourth characteristic relates to the kids:

4. "not accused of dissipation or rebellion."

Now those are big words.

I think it's the New International Version that translates that:

"they're not wild and disobedient."

Philips translates it:

"they are not accused of loose and immoral living."

They don't rebel against the authorities. And are they loose morally in their lives?

Verse 7.

**v. 7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's superintendent, not self-willed (stubborn), not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of dishonest gain,**

Now he's been talking POSITIVE so he'll slip NEGATIVE here in verse 7 and he'll flip back to some positive things in verse 8. That's just to keep your attention.

In verse 7 the fifth characteristic is this person is:

5. "not self-willed (or stubborn)"

And you can always tell a person who's guilty of that in **THREE CRITICAL AREAS:**

1. you can see him at the **CHURCH**,
2. you can see him in his **FAMILY**, and
3. you can see him at **WORK**.

At the **CHURCH** he's always the only one on the board who votes no on an idea. And sometimes he's the only one that's for it, if he thought up the idea.

When you coerce him and he finally gives in and makes the decision he says "But it isn't the best idea. It isn't the way to go."

When you see him in the FAMILY he rules as a dictator. He makes all the decisions in the house, or he thinks he does. And the wife and the kids are always subverting the decisions behind his back.

Third you see him at WORK. He has never made a mistake at work. And that really eats the lunch of every other guy that either works for him or with him. They call him Mr. Arrogant. He always has a reason for why the mistake was made but it's never his responsibility.

And the tragic thing is this guy usually leads his family devotions and witnesses for Christ at work and comes up with no results and wonders why the Lord's failing him in his ministry and his work.

That is not a characteristic of godliness. Godliness is a result of brokenness, humility, a deep sense of contrition before God can ever begin to work.

I've got to submit to divine authority before progress will ever be made. You're going to see that in chapter 3 when we get along in some other manifestations of the godly life.

Third John verses 9 and 10 characterize Diotrephes. He is that kind of guy that would be characterized here. John says:

### 3 John 9, 10

I wrote to the church but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. So if I come, I'll call attention to what he is doing: gossiping maliciously about us, not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.

Number six, he is:

6. “not quick-tempered”

It just says in the scripture: “Don't let the sun go down upon your wrath.” (Eph. 4:26)

But it's another thing to immediately pop off! Quick-tempered, short circuited judgment.

James 1:19 is a good verse to put right there with that:

#### James 1:19

My dear brothers, take note of this. Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

David Augsburger in his book *The Freedom of Forgiveness* says always watch the half hour before dinner. That's usually when the temper flairs, when the blood sugar is low. And invariably, many Christian homes have found their meals



have been decimated times of tears in the bedroom just because of that very problem. (source unknown)

It was Mahatma Gandhi who says:

“When you are in the right, you can afford to keep your temper. When you are in the wrong, you can’t afford to lose it.”  
(source unknown)

Wisdom is always on the side of self-control.

#### 7. “not addicted to wine”

Ephesians 5:18 says:

#### Ephesians 5:18

Don’t get drunk with wine, but be filled with the spirit.

Don’t become a slave to that which intoxicates.

#### 8. “not pugnacious”

Do you know what that means? Not a fist-fighter.

You say you mean that’s included in the godly life? You know.

So is “the husband of one wife.”

Isn’t it interesting, these two are together?

You know who I thought of when I thought of these two? Billy Martin, if he were here he'd give a perfect example of getting intoxicated wailing on a marshmallow salesman. You know, I mean he's a perfect classic example of the opposite here. You get a few too many spirits and you immediately become a bully, a fist-fighter. Many a bar room brawl will tell the same story.

That is not a manifestation at all of the godly life, to let things like that trigger you to the violent action.

### 9. “not fond of dishonest gain”

Boy I can say some things here. I'm going to say a few of them and save the rest of them for next week.

First Timothy chapter 6, verses 5-10—Paul in writing to Timothy wedged together the relationship of money to the godly life. And it's a beautiful thing. First Timothy chapter 6, verses 5-10—listen to the verses:

#### 1 Timothy 6:5-10

Constant irritation of men corrupted in mind, and bereft of true thinking that godliness is a way of gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, so that as a result we can take nothing out of it. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who are desiring to be rich, fall into the temptation and a snare, and many useless

and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and into destruction...

In the Bible when they had needs there was always more given than they needed. Moses had to tell the people when he got ready to build the tabernacle: “Quit giving! We’ve got too much!”

I just wish somebody, just somebody somewhere could say “You know, God has led us in this and He’s provided. Quit giving! We’ve got enough! We’ve got too much.”

I think when a person’s got to start talking about money in his ministry, you better scrutinize his ministry.

Because the apostle Paul said to the Philippians:

“I have learned in whatever state I am to be content.”  
(Phil. 4:11)

If I’m God’s minister and I’m hungry, then I need to learn to be content being hungry. And if I’m full, I’m excited about being full.

### Philippians 4:11

I have learned in whatever state I am, therewith to be content.

Whether I'm full or hungry it doesn't make any difference. But God has promised "to supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

And I don't have to make an issue out of it.

### 9. "not fond of dishonest gain"

You want to put Acts chapter 5 there, that's a great cross-reference—Ananias and Sapphira.

And then if you want to put 2 Kings chapter 5—old Gehazi, the servant of Elisha whipped after Naaman to try to catch a few bucks from him on the blindside and ended up getting leprosy. You've got another manifestation of the greedy heart.

Verse 8—now we get to go back to the POSITIVE for just a minute.

### **v. 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, holy, disciplined (self-controlled),**

You were hoping I wouldn't get to that last one I know. We'll be there in a minute.

### 10. "hospitable"

## Romans 12:13

Share with God's people who are in need, and practice hospitality.

What does that mean? That means that I delight to share what I have with others. And that in sharing, I further the ministry. Maybe it's a meal. Maybe it's a bed.

Probably the greatest illustration in the Bible of HOSPITALITY is the woman at Shunem. She's one of the most beautiful ladies in the Old Testament. She's in 2 Kings chapter 4.

She had the privilege one day of inviting Elisha to her house for dinner. He was coming down from Mt. Carmel from his retreat with the Lord and heading back to Samaria, the headquarters for his ministry.

And Shunem was right in the middle and he stopped to have a meal. She was so enriched by the conversation that she invited him any time he came that way, to stop by. And so there were many occasions, because a preacher never looks a gift in the face, he always is going to show up and be ready. The only problem is, when you invite him over under the stressful circumstances of living close, he doesn't eat too well because he's waiting for the bomb to fall.

But in this situation, she invited him to come and when he came three or four times, she turned to her husband and said “Honey, could we please take out a home improvement loan and remodel the upper chamber so that he’d always have a bed and a chair and a lamp and a place to stay? So he can spend the night because it’s tragic to keep him here, bending his ear this late and then sending him off to stay in a Holiday Inn or to go all the way to Samaria. Don’t you think that’d be right?”

And of course her husband was very willing to acquiesce to that pressure and there’s a prophet’s chamber for Elisha whenever he comes.

Paul says:

“I have fondness in my heart for the house of Onesiphorus because often they refreshed me in my ministry.” (2 Tim. 1:16)

11. “loving that which is good”

This is loving good people and good things.

And number 12 the word is:

12. “sensible”

And I put Romans 12:3 with that:

## Romans 12:3

For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think.

And then Philippians 2, verses 3 and 4 would go there.

And then:

## James 3:13-18

...The wisdom which is from above is pure, peaceable, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere...

### 13. “just”

This is manifest in the decisions that you make. They are just sound, good decisions because you have consulted with your heavenly Father before you made those decisions.

Solomon is the example of this as he prayed that the Lord would give him wisdom that he might judge this people, and God manifested that in his life during those early years of his leadership.

Number fourteen, he is a:

### 14. “holy (or devout)” person.

“Be ye holy for I am holy,’ saith the Lord.” (1 Peter 1:16)

## 2 Corinthians 7:1

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Godliness will reflect itself in a holy walk.

And I got to number 15. That wasn't so bad, was it?

15. “disciplined (or self-controlled)”

Now the only reason I need to land there for a minute is you're not going to get away from that word after I get through today.

You know we're going to see it **FIVE TIMES** before we get through chapter 2.

When the Bible says something once you better pay attention to it. When it says it twice, you better underline it. When it says it three times, it's an integral part. And if it comes across five or six or seven or eight times, or every time there's a list, whew, it's a big part.

That's the principle. The principle is this:

The godly person is the disciplined person.



There's never been a godly, undisciplined person. They don't go together.

You're as godly as you are willing to be disciplined.

Paul says:

### 1 Corinthians 9:27

I treat my body roughly and I make it serve me, lest when I preach to others I myself would be ordered to stand up beside or be disqualified.

Discipline and godliness go together.

You find it in the Corinthian letters. You find it in the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. The last manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:23 is “self-control.”

The fruit of the Spirit—“self-control.”

Now I personally am of the persuasion that this “discipline (or self-control)” falls into three areas of our lives.

Somebody said:

The heights that great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight,

But they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.

(source unknown)

The three areas where discipline or self-control is manifested is:

1. in the PHYSICAL,
2. in the SPIRITUAL, and
3. in the EMOTION or PSYCHOLOGICAL part.

And I've got just the word I want to say about those three things.

First, discipline in the PHYSICAL—they all start with “S” so it'll be easy to remember.

Discipline in the PHYSICAL involves:

SEX,

SILVER, and

STEAKS.

Easy huh?

In SEX—my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Controlled by His Spirit. Those desires are manifest in a right and meaningful relationship with the wife of my youth as a godly person.

SILVER—my attitude toward money is one that I will not be dominated by it.

STEAKS—I'm going to quote from Don Gilmore. I'm not going to go on a kick of weight loss, although I see I could.

In his book, *The Freedom to Fail*:

(*The Freedom to Fail* by G. Don Gilmore) Revell, 1966

...flabby over-fed Christians betray an apparent inability to control their appetites. Food should be selected, not so much by habit or accident, but with an eye to its true nutritional value. A daily regime of vigorous play, setting up exercises, running, lifting weights, or slightly less strenuous activity should be made a part of our daily schedule. Exercising the body produces a moral tranquil nature, less sickness, less irritation, sounder sleep at night, a clearer mind, a more willing body, better health, and above all, a more effective instrument for the living God. We cannot be free or real if our bodies, the temples of the Holy Spirit, have been allowed to deteriorate and become dissipated monuments to our lack of self-discipline. (p. unknown)

I think that's a vital part of the godly life.

Number 2—I have hit the SPIRITUAL. And as a spiritual, godly person I'm adopting 2 Timothy 2:15 as my guideline:

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

I am a STUDENT of the Word and I serve Him as He provides the opportunity.

STUDENT and SERVICE.

STUDY and SERVICE—side by side in the disciplined, godly person.

And when you become a student of the Word and the godly life begins to result, you're not going to have to look very far to find opportunities to serve Him.

Number three, and I'm saying this for some of you that have a misconception of the godly life. I believe the self-controlled, disciplined godly life is manifested thirdly in the:

PSYCHOLOGICAL—in the mental, in the emotional.

Some people really have the wrong notion about godliness. They have the feeling that to become godly you've got to lose your cool, you've got to act like a nut, you've got to roll in the aisle, you've got to shout "Amen!" and "Praise the Lord!" every time somebody says something. And in short, act like somebody you don't ever want to be. In other words, you lose your total psychological orientation in order to be godly.

And I'm here today to say that that is not godliness.

Godliness is epitomized in the Lord Jesus, Who always kept His cool, Who always spoke rationally, clearly and in understandable fashion.

And the scripture says: "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ" (Phil. 2:5).

I'm saying the godly person has a disciplined mind and it is solid, it is stable, it is sound, and it is steady.

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear," 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "but he has given us a sound mind."

I say those things because too often I have run into men who don't want to become godly because they're afraid they're going to be embarrassed by having to do something that is going to put them in a very silly position in order to be godly.

Verse 9—there's one word I want to look at in verse 9 and I'll bring our concluding observations.

**v. 9 clinging to the trustworthy message which is in accordance with the teaching, in order that he may be able both to be exhorting in sound doctrine and to be refuting those who are contradicting.**

That word “clinging.”

That little word is the word *antechó*. It means to hold on against.

If there’s ever a day that we need to cling to the Word of God, it is the day in which we live. That’s the secret to the godly life. And the world around you is going to try to pull you away from it. Keep you from giving serious consideration to the principles in the Word.

Paul says to Titus, the pressure of the people on the island of Crete are going to try to pull it away from you—cling to it!

I’m telling you, there’s a lot in this society today that wants to pull the Word of God out of your hands, cause you to doubt it and believe it’s full of errors. And I’m here to say that it’s inerrant. It’s still in vogue. It’s authoritative and it’ll do what it says it’ll do.

The Word is **CENTRAL** in the life of the person who is godly.

Where does this bring you? Some of you are sitting there and you’re saying “I’m gray-headed and it’s too late!” Aren’t you?

“I mean, I’ve lived long enough the way I am and I just frankly say, it’s too late. I’m not going to make it so I’m just not going to try.”

Now that’s the wrong attitude.

“Forget those things which are behind and press toward those things which are in front.” (Phil. 3:13)

You know I’ve never been more enthusiastic about life than I am right now. More excited and more free and more fulfilled in the ministry God has given. That’s exciting! It’s never too late! All you’ve got to do is decide you’re going to do it, rearrange your priorities and recognize that the number one thing is to pursue the path of obedience to the Word of God and start spending time in it.

How much time have you had to be with the Lord in His Word?

That’s the instrument that God uses to show us and to begin to develop the godly lifestyle.

Kind of a neat picture, isn’t it? And it sure is fun to realize that as God keeps on in His good work in my life, I’m going to be more and more like that.

**A Practical Study of TITUS:  
Growth Toward Godliness**

**“Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”**

**STUDY NUMBER TWO – THE PICTURE OF GODLINESS – TITUS 1:5-9**

**NOTES**

v. 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, in order that you might set in order the things which remain, and appoint elders in every city as I direct you,

v. 6 if a certain man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who are believers, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

v. 7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s superintendent, not self-willed (stubborn), not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of dishonest gain,

v. 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, holy, disciplined (self-controlled),

v. 9 clinging to the trustworthy message which is in accordance with the teaching, in order that he may be able both to be exhorting in sound doctrine and to be refuting those who are contradicting.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Titus 1:5-9 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. Why was Titus left in Crete, according to verse 5?

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3. Outline the characteristics of the godly man in the passage and meditate on them.

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4. Describe the godly man's family relationship, according to verse 6.

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5. Describe a stubborn, or self-willed, person in your own words.

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6. What is the godly man's attitude toward material things, according to verse 7?

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7. How would a person manifest the qualities that are described in verse 8?

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8. What two things does the godly man do in his teaching, according to verse 9?

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9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

LESSON #1: The picture of godliness is a picture of Jesus Christ.

LESSON #2: Godliness involves submission and obedience.

LESSON #3: Godliness is the result of discipline.

LESSON #4: Godliness is a process. It takes time. There are no instant results.

LESSON #5: Godliness is the way we are as a result of His work.

LESSON #6: Paul viewed the well-ordered home as a true test of man's maturity and ability to lead other Christians.

LESSON #7: James 1:19: "My dear brothers take note of this, everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."

LESSON #8: When you are in the right, you can afford to keep your temper. When you are in the wrong, you can't afford to lose it.

LESSON #9: Godliness will reflect itself in a holy walk.

LESSON #10: Genuine godliness will manifest in the life through a consistent walk with God and living in His Word.