

# GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE

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Have you ever wondered what profit or advantage there is to being a Christian? The rest of the world lives any way they want and you live by God's word. What profit is there in doing this?

Paul wrote that "godliness is profitable" (1 Timothy 4:7-8). Let's consider five areas of our life that profit from godliness.

First, we will profit materially. We will follow the godly principles that involve a good work ethic (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12), honesty (2 Corinthians 8:21), and saving (John 6:12-13).

Second, we will profit physically. We will follow the godly principles that exercise self-control over our mind and body (1 Corinthians 9:27) and we will use our body for God's use, not for harmful substances (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

Third, we will profit mentally. We will follow the godly principles that lead to a happy state of mind (Philippians 4:8).

Fourth, we will profit socially. We will follow the godly principles that lead to peaceful actions with others (Romans 12:18-19; 14:19).

Fifth, we will profit spiritually. We will follow the godly principles that lead to a right relationship with God and all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3): forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 3:19), answered prayer (Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 John 5:14), inner strength (Ephesians 3:16), a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13), and God's providential care (Hebrews 13:5-6). We will also get "the life that is to come" – eternal life – heaven (Mark 10:28-30; 1 John 2:25).

Yes friend, there's profit in being a faithful Christian. Be one today! ✍

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# IMPORTANT COMBINATIONS



Combinations are a part of our daily lives. There are number combinations, color combinations, chemical combinations, money combinations, etc. Certain results are dependent on the proper combinations. Without one element or another, the desired result will not happen. Notice some important combinations:

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

**Red + Green = Yellow**

**Sodium + Chlorine = Salt**

**Nickel + Dime = 15 cents**

**Belief + Baptism = Salvation**

Each element in these combinations is absolutely vital to producing the result. You cannot have 5 without a 2 *and* a 3; you cannot have yellow without *both* red and green; you cannot have salt without combining sodium *and* chlorine; you cannot have 15 cents without adding a nickel *to* a dime; and, you cannot have salvation without belief *followed by* baptism (Mark 16:16). 2 without 3 is not 5, red cannot make yellow without green, chlorine alone without sodium is a deadly chemical, a dime is 5 cents short of 15 cents, and belief alone will never save an individual without water baptism (see James 2:24).

If we can understand and accept the first four combinations as true, why is it *so hard* for *so many* to understand and accept the last one? The truth is always the truth. MWG

