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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom on earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* [Acts 16:31a](#) And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* [Romans 10:9,10](#) *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* [Romans 10:13](#) *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* [Romans 5:1](#)

August 2013 Newsletter - Living Our Own Spiritual Life

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” 2 Peter 2:9

Intro On Godliness:

First of all, we want to define what eusebeia is and that it does refer to the **spiritual life** that God created in each believer at the moment of salvation, when we were regenerated by the Holy Spirit, which is what being born again is all about, this made us a new man, or a new species of humanity.

Second, this **spiritual life is eternal**. That which God created in us he took from himself. And this spiritual side of our nature, because it is from God, is **eternal**. Which is another one of the many reasons why believers cannot lose their salvation. The new nature is spiritual, made of spirit and truth, and because it is spiritual it is eternal in nature.

The third thing is that **our spiritual life is unique to us!** There are no two spiritual lives alike. We may be all spiritual in substance, and we are, but our spiritual life is our very own, unique only to us. It is what makes you, you, and makes you different than every other believer in Christ!

The fourth thing is that **we will be living in our very own spiritual life for all eternity!** What is in you now, that is, your spiritual life that God created in you and only for you, is **what you will be living in forever!** It will be clothed with an eternal body at the resurrection.

The fifth thing is that Jesus Christ is the prototype for this new man. Adam was unique in all of God's creation because he was the first of a new species, the species of humanity. And Jesus Christ is unique in God's new species of humanity, because he is the prototype after which all Church Age believers are patterned, with each one of us having our own uniqueness. The new man, the new nature, **the spiritual man and life in us is patterned after Jesus Christ!**

The sixth thing is that **this spiritual life in us needs the metabolization of Bible Doctrine by faith and the filling of the Holy Spirit**. This is what strengthens us, edifies us, renews us, gives us faith, hope, love, joy, peace, creates spiritual growth inside us and conforms us to the image of Christ.

The seventh thing is that **eusebeia takes all these things into account and then applies it to life**. *Eusebeia* is the intake and metabolization of Bible Doctrine by faith, under the filling and power of the Holy Spirit, and then being applied to life's experiences! **So eusebeia refers to the believer in Christ living life in their very own spiritual life while here on the earth**. Which will be followed by them living in their own spiritual life for all eternity in a resurrection body.

The eighth thing is that the spiritual life, which God created in every believer, **becomes the conscious, experiential point of contact between that believer and God**. Whenever we talk about communion with God, or fellowship with God, it is done through this new man inside of us as we operate in our own spiritual life dynamic. This is accomplished as we commune with God over his Word and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Even though the concept of meditation has gotten a bad rap in Christian circles today, the practice of meditation over the Word of God greatly facilitates this dynamic.

A. Pray that we can live a godly life.

“For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a **quiet and peaceable** life in all godliness and honesty.” 1 Timothy 2:2 - υπερ βασιλεων και παντων των εν υπεροχη οντων ινα ηρεμων και ησυχιον βιον διαγωμεν εν π αση ευσεβεια και σεμνοτητι.

Now that we understand what the concept of what godliness is all about, we need to go into the various places that we find its operation in Scripture. Paul exhorts Timothy to be praying for our leaders that we might be able to live in our spiritual life. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” 1 Timothy 2:1,2

An interesting note of history concerning governments is that all governments on the earth, before the Greek democracy, were monarchies! So, when one was talking about a government, they were talking about a monarchy with a king. In this country we have a constitutional republic, where the constitution is over the government and the people are free sovereigns over the constitution!

Another interesting note is that the present “government” of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, (notice the all capitalized letters), is not an actual government, but a **business corporation!** And Christians are not mandated by God to submit to the “authority” of a **business corporation!!** One may be motivated to do so out of fear of reprisal, but there will be no discipline by God for not doing so.

The first word for **quiet** is *eremon*, ηρεμων; it is used only once in the Bible by the Apostle Paul, and is very similar to the word, ερημων, the word for a wilderness, a desert, or a deserted place, where only the position of the two e's are changed.

The Greek word for a **desert** can also be used for the mountains and forests. **The significance of a desert is not the absence of trees, but the absence of people!** Its significance is not on the idea of what we call a desert, but on a deserted place! A place where there are no people, whether it's in the mountains or the desert is immaterial.

People bring with them noise, commotion, hustling, bustling, yelling, fighting, arguing, arrogance, every form of old sin nature activity and even demonic activity. Even without opening their mouths, or being involved in some form of overt activity, people carry with them their attitudes of arrogance and anger which are projected around them.

But when people are gone there is solitude. And with solitude there is no negative energy, only quietness, then a calmness, or a peacefulness as we would say. No more noise, no screaming, crying and the rest, just quietness and a sense of calm.

Solitude is where you're alone and from that idea comes the concept of being left alone. It's not always possible for God's people to live in places of solitude here on the earth, some don't even like the idea, but there is the idea that we should be left alone by other people, and by the government, to live our own lives, both in the physical sense and the spiritual sense.

There are two important concepts that God wants us to implement in our lives. The inner concept of seeking after having his **peace** in our souls, which he gave us at salvation. And then there is the external concept of establishing **tranquility** in our homes, our lives, our families, and our surroundings as much as we can.

This external tranquility has the ideas of quietness and a certain amount of solitude. No noise, no commotion, no negative energy, no old sin nature activity, no turmoil, no demonism, but only things that are quiet, positive, beautiful, uplifting, inspiring, etc..

Being able to have solitude at times in our lives is important for many reasons, one of them is that it enhances the idea of the believer seeking out God without having any distractions or irritants going on around them. Places without people, or sparsely populated areas encourage this idea.

When the Lord was with the disciples there were times when he wanted them to get away from the crowds to an area where there was no people to find a place of quiet. “*And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a **desert place**, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.*” Mark 6:31

The second word used in the passage is *hesouchios*, ησυχιον, “*that we may lead a **quiet and peaceable life***”. This documents the principle that God wants his people to live quiet and peaceable lives here on earth. Not just that God wants us to have his peace in our souls, but that also **he wants our lives to be quiet, calm, tranquil!**

It's hard to differentiate between the two, because they are so similar in meaning and that the inner dynamic is so often affected by what's going on outside. But Plato spoke of *hesouchios* as the tranquility of the philosopher who escapes from the turmoil of politics. One can only imagine the scene of leaving the talking, yelling and arguing going on in the political arena and going out into the quiet of the countryside. **Or the one who withdraws from the lawlessness of a world he cannot change.**

For the purpose of our study we can refer to **peace** as the inner state of the soul that is filled with the Holy Spirit; quiet as an external environment free from all the negative energy of noise, commotion, hostility, agitation, sin nature activity, etc.; and **tranquility** as the *ambiance* of one's environment as the result of all that.

As mentioned before, you can have inner peace without external tranquility, but you can't have true tranquility without inner peace. And as believers in Christ, **God not only wants us to have peaceful souls, but tranquil lives as well**. Paul emphasizes that in 1 Timothy 2:2, “*that we may **lead a quiet and peaceable life** in all godliness and honesty.*”, where he talks about leading, or living, a quiet and peaceable life.

The next word used in this passage is *diago*, διαγωμεν, when he says, “*that we may **lead** a quiet and peaceable life.*” *Diago* was used frequently with *bion* by Greek writers to **denote how one spends his life here on earth**. It isn't speaking of just being alive, but the manner in which, or how, he lives his life, or how he spends his time on earth. Quiet and tranquil lives in all godliness and honesty, that is how God wants us to live our lives here on earth.

But there's something else here that is the focus of our praying to God and that's so we can live our lives in **godliness!** Godliness is a very important matter for the believer in Christ, for it refers to the believer's intake and application of Bible Doctrine to their life. It speaks of the believer's walk with God, their inner spiritual life dynamic of peace and the Word circulating in the soul, of their daily communion with God and their application of the doctrine that they have understood and metabolized by faith, to their personal lives and decisions.

B. Godliness with contentment.

“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” 1 Timothy 6:6 - εστιν δε πορισμος μεγας η ευσεβεια μετα αυταρκειας.

Paul touches on a subject that has existed in the Church ever since the Church began and that is believer's wanting to get ahead, to be successful, to acquire money and the material possessions of this world. I guess it's normal to want to better one's life, which is not what this is all about, but it depends upon one's attitude toward all these things.

Today there is an evil error in many churches throughout the land brought on by the “prosperity gospel” movement of Pentecostalism and the Charismatics, where the focus is now on money and things and not on the Lord and his Word. So much so, that these false teachers have explicitly stated that God not only wants you rich, but if you don't have things, then there is something wrong with your walk with God!

And beyond that there is the concept that churches, and the teachings, or ministries, of churches, the whole “Christian” concept are being used to promote material gain in life! And you see this not only in the Charismatic churches, but even in doctrinal churches as well, where the believer will sit under Bible Doctrine for years getting their lives straightened out and when they finally get to the place where they have the things they want, then they live doctrine!

But Paul corrects and rebukes all that by saying, *“godliness with contentment is great gain.”*! Living in the spiritual life dynamic is not designed by God to get us the things we want out of life and in life. Rather, living in the spiritual life dynamic of *eusebeia*, when in company with contentment is not just gain, but great gain! And what is **contentment** - *autarkes*? It is being self sufficient depending on no one and no thing and being satisfied with just that.

As it says in Hebrews 13:5, *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be **content** with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* And as Paul says in Philippians 4:11, *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be **content**.”*

The background of the word *autarkes* is quite interesting for it comes from the school of the Stoics, who believed that coming to the place of personal sufficiency was not only the goal of their teaching, but the epitome of life. Although it is regarded today simply, and perhaps mistakenly, as the repression of emotions and indifference to pain or pleasure, it was really different than that. They realized that life had all sorts of things that were going to be thrown at them. And they had observed most people did not handle these things quite well. They saw that people generally were affected by their emotions, thus spinning them out of control, or they looked to other people, or things, to help them get through the difficulties of life. To them a person should be able to internally possess whatever was needed and not look to external solutions. When they had arrived at that place, they were self sufficient, or *autarkes*. They were content not needing anything.

For the believer in Christ everything we need for life and godliness, has been supplied to us by God the Father and it is found in the spiritual life dynamic. So the epitome and goal for us is living in our own spiritual life not needing anything or anyone. We tend to look to others to provide what we need, but what we really need has been supplied to us by God in his spirit and his Word.

C. Living in our spiritual life is to be our goal in life.

“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.” 1 Timothy 6:11 - συ δε ω ανθρωπε του θεου ταυτα φευγε διωκε δε δικαιοσυνην ευσεβειαν πιστιν αγαπην υπομονην πραοτητα.

Paul has been talking about money, materialism, and all the other things that money can buy that people chase after. He touches on the problem that there are those in Christianity, who equate material gain with the spiritual life dynamic. Which is to say, that if the believer is pleasing to God; if the believer is walking with God; if the believer is mature or maturing, then there should be prosperity in their life! *“Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.” 1 Timothy 6:5*

Paul rejects that false premise by stating that godliness, accompanied with self-sufficient contentment in life, is gain in itself! He also brings in the idea that we brought nothing into this world and we won't, and can't, be taking anything out of this world! The only thing we can carry out of this world is the Bible Doctrine we have metabolized by faith in our souls! *“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.” 1 Timothy 6:7*

He tells Timothy to **flee** these things, *pheugo*, to flee them like someone trying to get away from prosecution, or persecution. And then he tells him to **pursue**, *dioko*, after righteousness in one's daily living, to pursue after living in his own spiritual life, to pursue after living by faith claiming the promises and all that is connected to the faith rest life, living life with the mental attitude of agape love, endurance, which is enduring the trials of life that we all have to go through by appropriating the spiritual provisions that God has provided, and meekness.

Now **meekness**, *praoteta*, is the mental attitude of humility of accepting God's dealings with you as being more than right and fair. It takes in the idea of having an understanding that you were saved by the grace of God, (which he didn't have to do), that God forgave our sins and has promised to give us a new body to live with him and his Son throughout eternity. It also is the mental attitude that whatever God does for you, whatever he supplies to you, whatever he gives to you, whatever his provisions are for you, are simply his gift to you out of his grace and we should be thankful for them and not be complaining about what we don't have!

Both to **flee** and to **pursue** are found in the present active imperative, which are commands to do the actions of the verbs, to keep on doing them, and that we are responsible of our own free will to do so. That is, we must make the decisions to do so. What's interesting is that there are two concepts that are set side by side for our perusal, but they are totally different in contrast to one another.

One has to do with the things found in this **life**; the things that the people of the world system pursue after all the days of their lives. While the other things all pertain to the **spiritual** side. The one we are to reject and keep on rejecting, even to flee from. While the other deals with those things in life that are to be our goals and that we vigorously pursue after!

And one of the things in this group is *eusebeia*, living in our own spiritual life. Paul puts this up there as being something of **such tremendous importance**, that we are to pursue after it all the days of our lives! All believers have one. It was created in them at the time of their salvation. Now all we have to do is live in it each day communing with God via faith in the Word and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

D. Suffering persecution.

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12 - και παντες δε οι θελοντες ευσεβως ζην εν χριστω ιησου διωχθησονται.

A **godly life**, *eusebos zen*, refers to the believer in Christ whose life is characterized by them living in the spiritual life God created in them. Other believers, who go after the things of the world and the flesh, do not have that kind of persecution. Rather, they have found out that **it is much easier in life to “go with the flow” of things so as to avoid persecution!** Not to mention, that they end up having more money and more things.

And remember, *eusebeia*, is the believer taking in the teaching of the Word of God, metabolizing it by faith, living in the new man, being filled with the Holy Spirit, communing with God, etc., all in the sphere of Christ's peace he gave to us. But one more thing – applying the teaching of the Word of God to our lives! And this is where the problem starts. We can believe whatever it is that we want to believe, but it is when we start to apply God's Word in an ungodly society that we begin to have problems!

All that will live is the present active participle of *thelo*, to desire, or to will to do something, or to want to do something, which is **to live a godly life**, or to have one's life characterized as being one of living our own life in the sphere of the spiritual life dynamic. And it's to live one's life as a daily principle, not just on Sundays.

Now this tells us that those believers, those who have made a decision to live life in their own spiritual life and apply the spiritual and doctrinal principles of God's Word to their own lives, **will** suffer persecution. Not that they **might** suffer persecution, but that, because of the future indicative of *dioko*, they **will** suffer it! It has become an absolute certainty.

Now **persecution** can run the spectrum from being ridiculed and laughed at, to being ostracized by various people, to loss of jobs, loss of business, not being able to gain employment, or to have to work down at the bottom of the employment ladder for cheap wages, or being consigned to menial labor, all the way to having to leave town and lose everything! And because it is found in the passive voice it tells us that it is not the believer doing it to himself, but this is **being done to him by other people!**

He will be persecuted in one area or another by the unsaved and the saved alike. You would be shocked at how many doctrinal grace believers are rejected, ostracized, ridiculed, put down, even hounded after causing them to lose their jobs, businesses, even churches, or not being able to find work, or to lose their jobs after they find out your a doctrinal Christian, etc., by legalistic Christians!

Legalistic Christians have a tendency to tell you **how they** think **you** should live **your** spiritual life. What you should do, what clothes to wear, the cars you drive, the church you should attend, the day you should worship, the habits to avoid, how to spend your money, even what you should say or think and how to solve your own problems! A legalist is not just one who lives by their own laws, God's and theirs, but one **who is always trying to get somebody else to live by them!**

And the unsaved are just as bad, and worse, in many cases because once they find out you're not just a Christian, but one who believes the Bible is true and is trying to live their lives by it, they categorize you as a kook and ostracize you, marginalize you, even demonize you and this is presently going on at a federal level in the military.

E. Disciplining ourselves to live in our spiritual life.

*“But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto **godliness**. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness** is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7,8* - τους δε βεβηλους και γραωδεις μυθους παραιτου γυμναζε δε σεαυτον προς **ευσεβειαν** η γαρ σωματικη γυμνασια προς ολιγον εστιν ωφελιμος η δε **ευσεβεια** προς παντα ωφελιμος εστιν επαγγελιαν εχουσα ζωης της νυν και της μελλουσης.

The first thing we want to note is that physical exercise is **profitable**. It may profit us a little, but it is still profitable for us. Many today exercise for the purpose of sexual attractiveness to the opposite sex, while others exercise just to “stay in shape”. Proper exercise promotes good health for the inner organs, the joints, muscles and even improves one's mental attitude. It also, when properly done, helps us avoid or minimize injuries, sickness and diseases.

But as much as we try to eat properly, avoid junk food, and stay in shape, eventually the body keeps on deteriorating and experiences physical death. But having said that, physical health is also one of the blessings from God and certainly something to be desired and cultivated. Tragically, some of the most unhealthiest people in America are Christians!

The word for **exercise** here is *gumnazo* and it had its background in the games, where athletes from all over the world would spend years in exercising and conditioning their bodies, so they could win their event. So they had a goal and their goal for all their hard work was to win in the games, while people today have their own goals for exercising, some to attract mates, others because of a physical goal in mind, others just to stay in shape, while others for esoteric reasons.

Now Paul wants Timothy to exercise himself toward the goal of godliness, that is, living in his own spiritual life that God created in him. And this applies to all of us, not just Pastors! And as exercising our bodies takes discipline, sacrifice, having a proper diet, avoiding certain things in life and having priorities for life, so does it take discipline and sacrifice for us to live in our own spiritual life.

Then he goes on to say that living in one's own spiritual life is profitable for all things in life! Now physical exercise profits us somewhat in some things, but godliness is profitable for us in everything in life! But not just this life, but the life to come!

We have seen that God wants us to prosper and have good health in life, but this is based upon having a healthy soul. *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest **prosper** and be in health, even as thy soul **prospereth**.” 3 John 2* Actually both words used here for **prosper** are the one Greek word *euodoo*, and it meant to have a good journey.

To **prosper** did not mean that one was rich in this world's goods or money, but that their journey through this life was a good journey. And the same thing would be said for the soul, that the soul's journey through this life was a good one. Quite frankly, for a lot of God's people the journey of their soul through this life has been a hard one.

But by doing what Paul tells us here to do, to exercise ourselves for the purpose of living in our own spiritual life, and having communion with God each day in it, then **our soul's journey through this life will be a good one!** And it also has the promise of profit for us in eternity! **What we have learned to do, and disciplined ourselves to do spiritually, will be taken into eternity with us!**

F. Delivering the godly out of trials.

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:” 2 Peter 2:9 - ουδεν κυριος ευσεβεις εκ πειρασμων ρυεσθαι αδικους δε εις ημεραν κρισεως κολαζομενους τηρειν.

The word **godly** is *eusebeis* and it refers to those believers who are living in the spiritual life dynamic that God provided them at the time of their salvation and are seeking to implement the doctrinal teachings that they have learned and metabolized by faith to their daily lives.

We had seen in 2 Timothy 3:12 that those believers, who desire to live godly lives here on earth, will suffer persecution, *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* This passage takes that idea and shows us what the Lord will do in such circumstances. Peter says that the Lord **knows**, the perfect active indicative of *oida*, he knows full well, he possesses the full knowledge, on **how** to deliver the **godly** from **temptations**, as we have here.

The word for **deliver** is the present middle infinitive of *rhuomai*, which actually meant to deliver someone out of a dangerous situation, and can also be translated as to **rescue**. In context we have **Lot** being used as an example of what the Lord meant by rescuing someone out of a dangerous situation. The Lord was going to rain his fiery judgment down on Sodom and Gomorrah, but before he did that he went there with two angels to get Lot and his family to leave the area to escape the catastrophe.

The OT and NT are full of examples of the men and women, who were walking with the Lord, whom God rescued out of dangerous situations. Either situations that were coming about as the result of God's judgment on the people, or bad situations from corrupt rulers, or mobs of violent people. And sometimes he delivered them **out of** those things, and other times it was **through** those things, but in either case God still delivered his people!

Now the word **temptations** is used here, but in the Greek it's *peirasmos*, which most incorrectly think that this refers to a temptation to sin, but actually refers to a trial that is so severe that it could break the believer's faith, their will to go on, or crush their spirit, if left to continue on in it. These types of trials are very serious and are not there for the purpose of testing the believer's faith, but to see what's really inside of them. Because they are so severe they can really damage the believer.

In such cases, the Lord will always either **show a way out of them**, or **rescue them out of them**.

*“There hath no **temptation** taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation **also make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13*

Pressure, affliction, tribulation and all sorts of things have hit the godly in their lives here on earth, as they seek to walk with the Lord and be pleasing to him in his sight. Noah, Lot, and many others of God's people have had to suffer these things for awhile. Yes, their faith was tested. Yes, they suffered. And yes, they thought they could no longer go on. But in each one of these believers lives, **God provided a way out**. Sometimes it would be **through them**, *dia*, (endurance in action), and sometimes it would be **out of them**, *ek* – as we have here. There are two important concepts that we have to focus upon in this passage. **One**, is that we are living in our own spiritual life as we walk with the Lord. And **two**, not to get our eyes on the trial we are going through, but to keep our faith up and operating as we look to the Lord to deliver us out of the trial!