

A Form of Godliness

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away," 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

These verses were written long ago, but they paint a picture of our world today. Only the Lord could have foretold so accurately the way of life in this day and age. Most people don't seem to give it much thought but the Lord said he would come back to earth and take his church home to be with him. Those who believe him and read the bible will know of his coming again and of the signs that he gave. These are some of them and while they have been around for a long time they are more widespread today than ever before.

If we look at the world today we see many kinds of religion. Someone once said that if you can imagine it

somewhere on earth there are probably people practicing it. Man feels in his heart that he needs to worship. The question is what, or who? Some, without realizing it, worship pleasure. It may take the form of sex, sports, or any other kind of entertainment that takes over a person's life. There is a time for all things of life, but all things should not take all of a person's time. *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven," -- Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Some folks have made money, and what it can buy, the god of their life. It buys the material things that may comfort the body, but it can not buy that which brings peace to the soul.

Money is to be used for good and should not become the master of a person's life. Jesus talked about the man who had such an increase in his crops that he decided to tear down his barns and build bigger barns. He had it all planned out and thought he would take his ease and live it up. God called him out of this life and his goods were left to others. He was rich in material things but was not rich toward God.

There are those who are rich and think that they are better than the poor folks. Perhaps they think that they are smarter because they have made more money. They

may only be a rich sinner and will be doomed because of their pride and sinful hearts. Money, or the lack thereof, doesn't in itself make a person a sinner, or a saint.

Pride is a sin that the Lord spoke of not only in this text, but in other scriptures as well. This sin is condemned very strongly by God and is a danger to the soul. People can be proud of many things, and pride is good to a certain point, it should never make a person feel that he is better than someone else. If it should be because of a person's looks, or intelligence, that he feels superior to others, shouldn't he, or she, realize that they didn't make themselves that way? Pride can also afflict the Christian if we are not careful.

I have seen people who acted proud that they attended a large church. They mock the little church sometimes and I wonder how they can justify their attitude. Jesus spoke against pride and looking down on others. He looked with compassion on those who were poor and rejected by the rich and powerful. Some folks think that if you're not a success as the world counts success then you must not be worth much. It may be money, looks, talent, or some other thing, but the world values a person by what they have, not what they are. We have to be careful as God's children that we are not taken in by the ways of the world.

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A KING'S JEALOUSY

WHEN KING SAUL, BESET BY MELANCHOLY AND INSANITY, FIRST LAID EYES ON DAVID, THE BIBLE REPORTS THAT SAUL "LOVED HIM GREATLY" (1 SAM.16:21). SO MUCH SO, THAT SAUL MADE DAVID HIS ARMOUR-BEARER AND CALLED UPON HIM TO REFRESH HIS SPIRITS WHENEVER HE, SAUL, WAS SO DISTURBED! HOWEVER, DAVID WAS SO VALIANT AGAINST THE PHILISTINES AND SO SUCCESSFUL WHENEVER THEY MET IN BATTLE THAT WOMEN IN ALL THE ISRAELITE CITIES USED TO SING PRAISES TO DAVID ABOVE THAT TO KING SAUL! (1 SAM.18:6-9) THE JEALOUSY THAT WAS INSTIGATED IN SAUL'S MIND ERASED ANY FEELINGS OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP FOR DAVID TO BE REPLACED WITH THE DESIRE TO KILL DAVID AT ALL COSTS! (1 SAM.19:1).

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