

Discussion Questions & Quotes For February 25 thru March 2, 2024

—*“We're not called to perfection but to faithfulness. Sinlessness in this life isn't possible, but obedience in the pursuit of godliness is and that's intimately related to sanctification.* —**Steve Camp**

—“Cleanliness is not next to godliness. It isn't even in the same neighborhood. No one has ever gotten a religious experience out of removing burned-on cheese from the grill of the toaster oven.”

—**Erma Bombeck**

“We might be able to control our decisions, but we cannot control the results. Sin triggers the law of unintended consequences.”

—**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—**1 Timothy 4:7b–8** “Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline has a limited (temporary) benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

—*“God will not accept a divided heart. He must be absolute monarch. There is not room in your heart for two thrones. You cannot mix the worship of the true God with the worship of any other god more than you can mix oil and water. It cannot be done. There is not room for any other throne in the heart if Christ is there. If worldliness should come in, godliness would go out.* —**Dwight L. Moody**

—**1 Timothy 4:10** “For it is for this (spiritual discipline & godliness) we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.”

—*“To realize that the Holy Scriptures are a revelation from the Most High, communicating to us His mind and defining for us His will, is the first step toward practical godliness. To recognize that the Bible is God's Word, and that its precepts are the precepts of the Almighty, will lead us to see what an awful thing it is to despise and ignore them.”*

—**Arthur W. Pink**

—“I go out into America, and I am literally navigating a minefield. Godliness has become abnormal.” —**Si Robertson**

—*“We are pilgrims out of step with the ever-changing culture - yet we are sent by Christ, the Head of the church. The church is the last barrier between the present moral breakdown and total chaos.”*

—**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Please acquaint yourself with 1 Timothy 3:14–4:16 by reading it carefully, observing the details provided by what's in the biblical text.

—**1}** *Based on what Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:7–8, there's a distinct connection between godliness and maintaining an eternal value system. You might want to consult what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 6:19–21 or what Paul stated in Colossians 3:1–3. How can we decide the proper balance between an eternal perspective about life and setting long-range goals? How do we determine the amount of attention we should give to activities and events that won't (or don't) provide long lasting benefits, but give us relief from the pressures of living in a society that's saturated by sin? How do we set proper priorities in the area of temporary pleasures in contrast to heavenly treasures?*

—**2}** A popular perspective about *being disciplined* suggests that it can lead to a rigid and rigorous approach to life. Many people believe that discipline is restrictive, and almost addictive. On the opposite side of this, many people who are disciplined enjoy freedom from certain sinful habits and harmful activities. What personal thoughts do you have about this? (There are various articles written by Christian leaders who often analyze & evaluate our culture and suggest that our society is undisciplined in a harmful way. Do you agree with this analysis?)

—**3}** *1 Timothy 4:10 reminds us that spiritual discipline is a result of having our hope properly focused on the Lord. What does that mean? In a practical way, on what do we tend to fix our hopes? How do the trials & pressures of a fast-paced lifestyle influence our hopes? What impact does being rescued from sin's penalties by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus have on our outlook on life? (Be honest about this & take some time to reflect on God's amazing grace, mercy, & love!)*

—**4}** There are five areas of our lifestyles listed in 1 Timothy 4:12. Our example to the world around us is often determined by how we behave in these five areas. It's typically easier for us to judge others in these things than to look honestly at ourselves. How would our church be different if every person would view themselves as the kind of example that others should follow (one that exhibits genuine godliness)?

—**5}** *Considering 1 Timothy 4 & Hebrews 12:1–3, why is spiritual discipline important? What steps would you suggest for someone who is seeking to become more godly in a way that glorifies God?*