

Ungodliness & Profaneness

by Wayne Goff

In our recent lesson on *“Exercise Yourself Towards Godliness”* (1 Tim. 4:7), time did not permit us to look at the last section of the sermon on ungodliness and profaneness. So allow me to share the information now.

Ungodliness

The Greek word translated *“ungodliness”* means one is irreligious and has disrespect for God. It appears four times in the New Testament: Romans 1:18; Romans 11:26; 2 Timothy 2:16; Titus 2:12. Man chooses either to have the disposition of *“godliness”* (reverence for God) or *“ungodliness”* (disrespect for God), and there are no other options from which to choose!

In Greek Judaism from the first century, the Septuagint (**Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament**) uses the word in the book of Proverbs as the opposite of *“righteousness”* (Prov. 1:7) and it describes *“contempt for God and his will that marks the wicked.”*

In the New Testament, there is a group of words associated with this idea, but they only appear in the book of Romans (1:18; 4:5; 5:6; 11:26) and in the books of 1 & 2 Timothy (1:9; 2 Tim. 2:16) and Titus (2:12).

Romans 1:18 declares *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”* It is easy to see how this is true! Billions of dollars are spent by our government to promote the **false idea** of evolution. And we are seeing the promotion also of homosexuality by our government and businesses. In doing this, they are exposing their **ungodliness** and are suppressing the truth by their attitude!

If man will repent, then God will forgive his ungodliness, Romans 4:5. God loved us and gave up His Son Jesus to die for the sins of the ungodly, Romans 5:6. Unfortunately, the ungodly are often rebellious, stubborn, and self-willed. But they still have a choice!

Paul tells the young evangelist, Timothy that *“the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the **ungodly** and for sinners, for the unholy and **profane**, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for mans layers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,”* 1 Timothy 1:9-10. Look at that list and see how many attitudes and behaviors are defended by our nation today!

Profaneness

The Greek word translated *“profaneness”* in the New Testament has an interesting etymology. First the root concept was *“accessibility,”* then it came to refer to *“what may be said publicly.”* It evolved even further to mean *“what may be freely used,”* and ultimately *“of a profane disposition.”* The idea is quite obvious — *“**profaneness**”* comes from one who has been involved in any kind of conduct! He or she is a *“free and easy”* person, as we say today.

Again this word appears only five times in the New Testament (1 Timothy 1:9; 4:7; 6:20; 2 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 12:16). The concept of a *“profane person”* is someone who is far from God due to their immorality and lack of respect for God. Esau (Hebrews 12:16) is this kind of person.

Conclusion

We all make choices in our lives, and perhaps we would be better served to **categorize** them into one of the two choices we actually have: (1) godly; (2) ungodly. There are many shameless behaviors today that the Bible clearly identifies as *“ungodliness”* and *“profaneness.”* Do not be caught up in the wickedness of this world! The *“god of this world”* (Satan, 2 Cor. 4:4) blinds the minds of those who choose not to believe the truth of God.

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