Holding To A Form Of Godliness

Tony Mauck · 2 Timothy 3:1–7

INTRODUCTION

- One of the things that I'm sure you've noted before as you've read these verses is it sounds an awful lot like our society.
- A question that we need to ask, and I have it written in my text who or what do you love?
- Holding to a form of godliness, but denying its power. How is that done? What does that look like?

1 He's Not Talking About the Non-Religious

James 5:16; 1 John 2:1–2

- Whatever it is saying about people, he's not talking about the non-religious here. Again, they are engaged in a form of godliness.
- So it is possible that there could be people among us who suffer from this same malady.
- A lot of people tend to judge the validity of what we're doing here by the behavior of those who comprise this group.
- Truth is truth, regardless of our struggle to live it at times.

2 Power Comes From God on High

2 John 9; 1 John 2:14

- The only reason why they would not have power is that power comes from God on high. And thus they lack divine connection, association, and fellowship with God.
- If we do not abide in the doctrine of Christ, we are powerless.
- You are strong, young men, because the word of God abides in you.
- I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, because it is the power of God to salvation.

3 Worship That Is Not Worship

- All of this, our Bible studies, our sermons, our songs, this is about my connection to God.
- People who engage in worship that is not worship.
- It's a form of godliness, a feelingless execution of the right activities, and yet our thoughts are not directed to the throne of God.
- I'm here to encourage others, but mostly what's happening here is between me and him.

4 Blessing and Cursing From the Same Source

James 3:10; James 1:26

- Can from the same source come blessing and cursing, James says in James chapter 3.
- If anyone thinks himself to be religious and yet does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

- If we somehow replace the words of blessing and praise with words of vulgarity and profanity and coarseness as we live our lives, that is not tapping into the divine transforming power of his word.

5 No Real Spiritual Battles Against Temptation

- It is also evidence when no real spiritual battles against temptation are taking place.
- You're just not always out there being the victim. But you're actually fighting temptation. That's what the truly godly do.
- Those who hold to a form of godliness and deny its power are not fighting those battles.

6 Hold to Godliness and Claim Its Power

Hebrews 7:25; Romans 6:11; Ephesians 5:8–10

- We need to not hold to a form of godliness and deny its power, but hold to godliness and claim its power.
- Even so consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God, he says. That's how we do this.
- I need to pursue a relationship with him. That's how we're going to claim the power associated with godliness.
- For you were formerly darkness, but now you're not that. You are light in the Lord. So let your feet reflect that. Walk as children of light.
- I want to show my gratitude to him for his salvation and mercy.

THE CHALLENGE

Don't hold to a form of godliness, but deny its power. Won't you claim its power?

MY NOTES