THE GAIN OF GODLINESS
I Tim. 4: 7 - 8
by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. A life of godliness is one of devotion, righteousness, goodness, and self-control.
2. Does such a life pay?
3. How does it pay?? MUCH in every way!

I. GODLINESS PAYS IN MATERIAL THINGS
1. No man should have material gain as a motive for living a godly life.
   (1) It is wrong to follow Christ for this reason -- John 6: 26 - 27.
   (2) Our motive must be to serve God and please Him.
2. Though it should not be the motive -- it does pay in dollars and cents to live a godly life.
   (1) This is one of the "all things' in the text.
   (2) Matt. 6:33; Psa. 37:25; Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:10; Mk. 10: 29 - 30.
3. How is this so???
   (1) God's word teaches us:
       1. To be honest -- 2 Cor. 8:21; Eph. 4: 28.
       2. To be industrious -- 2 Thess. 3:10; I Thess. 4:11.
       3. To be courteous -- I Cor. 13:5; I Pet. 3:8.
   (2) These are the traits that make for business success.

II. IT PAYS PHYSICALLY Eph. 6: 1 - 3
2. The Bible teaches us to:
   (1) Have self-control, to be patient, and loving -- 2 Pet. 1: 5 - 7.
   (2) To be pure in heart and life -- Phil. 4:8; I Cor. 9:27; 2 Tim. 2:22.
   (3) To be joyful -- Phil. 4:4.
   (4) Not to worry -- Phil. 4:6; Matt. 6:25.
3. Science tells us that these virtues are very essential to good health and a long life.
   (1) Drugs and alcohol destroy the body tissues and shorten life.
   (2) Lustful desires unbridled cause nervous disturbances, disease, and sometimes insanity - - Rom. 1: 27.
   (3) Gloom, anxiety, and despair have unfavorable reactions on the body.
       1. Cheerfulness is to be a part of the Christian's life and is a tonic for the body and soul.
       2. Doctors encourage patients to be cheerful.
   (4) Passions of hate, envy, jealousy, anger, and malice are poisonous to the body.
       1. They impair the circulation and damage the heart muscles.
4. Science says the body needs one day of rest.
   (1) What is more helpful to the soul and body than the Lord's day service?

III. IT PAYS SOCIALLY
   (1) Followers of Jesus will find favor with men of honor.
2. What are the traits of character that men admire in a person?
   (1) Friendliness, cheerfulness, honesty, self-control, chastity and patience, etc...
4. If we live as Jesus directs we will find favor with worthy men and some of the ungodly.

IV. IT PAYS SPIRITUALLY
1. Here is pays the greatest dividends!
2. By following Christ we gain:
   (2) We are "new creatures" -- II Cor. 5:17.
   (3) We can commune with God as "friend with friend" -- Heb. 4: 15 - 16.
   (4) Peace which passes all understanding -- Phil. 4: 7; Col. 3:15.

CONCLUSION
1. Let us repeat our text -- I Tim. 4:8
2. As a Christian you have all to gain!
3. As a sinner, you have lost everything!