*THE PRACTICE of GODLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter One – “Value for All Things” – 1 Timothy 4:8**

*“The words godly and godliness actually appear only a few times in the New Testament, yet the entire Bible is a book on godliness. And when those words do appear they are pregnant with meaning and instruction for us.” (page 1)*

**“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8**

**V** alue- Ladies, what do you value? What do you treasure more than anything in this life?

**A** sk yourself, “If someone were to use one word to describe me today, what would it be?

**L** ittle do we realize that most often people describe us based on what or who we cherish most.

**U** sually what we delight in and devote ourselves to often leaves a lasting impression on others.

**E** very professing Christian is characterized by something or someone. Would others describe you as *godly* or *“Godlike”?*

**F** or it is at this point we must ask ourselves, “What are the marks of a godly person? How do

**O** ur lives not only become godly but how do they reflect godliness according to God’s Word?

**R** ivited on serving Jesus Christ our Lord and proclaiming the Gospel, the apostle Paul in the book of Titus “distills the essence of the Christian life into one brief paragraph. He tells us that God’s grace “teaches us to say ‘NO’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and *godly* lives” as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-13)” (pg.1)

**A** lso in his first letter to Timothy, Paul emphasizes godliness. We see godliness in those living a

**L** ife of tranquility and who pray for all in authority(1 Tim.2:2). We see godliness in women who

**L** ive lives focused on their inner beauty, modest clothing and their good works (1 Tim.2:9-10).

**T** hough godliness is seen in those who publicly confess Jesus Christ as Lord (1 Tim.3:16),is seen

**H** aving a disciplined life(1 Tim.4:7-8), is seen in those who affirm our Lord’s teaching(1Tim.6:3)

**I** s seen in those who are content in Christ (1 Tim.6:5-6), we also see that we are commanded

**N** onetheless to pursue godliness (1 Tim. 6:5-6). It is therefore both the privilege and duty of

**G** od’s children to diligently study God’s Word and learn that ***godliness is a life*** ***devoted to Him***:

**S** anctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts, seeking to walk with Him, submitting our wills to His will in prayer, serving Him and seeking to please Him in all that we say and do because we fear Him, love Him and desire Him above all else. (pg.3-4)

Jerry Bridges says that “*the practice of godliness* is an exercise or discipline that focuses upon God…Godliness, is more than Christian character; it is Christian character that springs from a devotion to God. But it is also true that devotion to God *always* results in godly character.”

(pg’s 3,6)

Ladies, I am looking forward to the journey through “The Practice of Godliness” with you this year. I am praying and trusting that as we open our Bibles and books together we will learn by His grace how to be godly – “Godlike”in our pursuit of “an ever-deepening devotion to God” for His honor and glory,

Christyn