

Godliness - Part 4

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I. Introduction.

- A. Death begins when growth ceases.
- B. Growth is not to decrease though spiritually. (2 Peter 3:18)

II. The unfinished task and how to finish it.

A. The task.

1. Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Hezekiah, and Jeremiah are representative of the Jews: they show that the whole earth was to be reached. (Genesis 12:3; Deuteronomy 2:25; Joshua 4:24; 1 Samuel 17:46; 1 Kings 8:60; 2 Kings 19:19; Jeremiah 22:9).
2. In Jesus' last moments before the crucifixion he focuses largely on the world. Jesus has the whole world on His heart and always has had as shown in the Old Testament.
3. The unfinished task is that $2/3$ of the world does not know Jesus.

B. How to finish it. (John 17)

1. The state of the gospel during the times of Christ and His apostles.
 - a. Jesus' task that was completed was that the world would know Himself and the Father.
 - b. Jesus did this by giving the men the Word and sending them into the world.
 - c. All over the world the gospel was bearing fruit. The word got around. (Colossians 1:6)
 - d. Thirty years after Christ it was true that the gospel had been spread across the earth. (Acts 19:10)
 - e. Tertullian a church father wrote that the Roman Empire was better off because nearly all in the empire were Christians.
2. The method—a training program.
 - a. The discipleship of the apostles was a full time venture.
 - b. Everything recorded in Scripture is only 10% of Jesus' time, but the rest was being spent with his disciples. He was imparting knowledge, skill, and character to them. As a result of this he was turning the world upside down.

c. Knowledge must be supplemented with skill and then with character. When character is imparted the job is finished. The pain of birth is just the beginning—follow up and growth must be repeated and repeated. (Galatians 4:19)

d. Disciples are to be brought up one by one since no two are alike. This will also make them “stick.” (1 Thessalonians 2:11)

e. You can evaluate the importance of a job by the amount of personal training that goes into it. Is there anything more important than training a Christian to reproduce? This task deserves important personal attention.

f. Multiplication means to greatly increase the number. Four times in Acts the number greatly increased. If your disciples produce more than one disciple, the increase will be great.

g. The method for the unfinished task is to greatly increase. The world will be populated spiritually the same way it is populated physically.

h. Disciples are not an end in themselves, but fulfilling God’s purpose through converts is.

i. Jesus had a plan to spread the Word—we need to adhere more to the method of the first century.

II. Conclusion: it is too late to add. Go out and multiply.

Application questions.

1. What is the task and method of true godliness, and how are they illustrated?

2. Why is the method described so important? What is effective about it?

3. Are you multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ? What reservations do you have? Make a plan to be a spiritual reproducer in the lives of others.
