



+ **YOU**

**Summer 2025**

**Character Counts**

**Sermon Title:** A Godly Life Lived Out

**To be used with Session 2:** Godliness

**The Point:** A Godly Life Points Others to Christ

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:13-16

**Connection with the Study:** To complement the Bible study “Godliness,” this sermon focuses on Paul’s admonition to Timothy on how to live as a believer. Jesus calls believers to be salt and light, to live their lives distinctly so others see God through them. Paul encouraged Timothy to train in godliness and set an example in his speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Godliness is not just personal; it absolutely influences others. Jesus taught that good works should lead people to glorify God (Matt. 5:16), while Paul told Timothy that his faithfulness will impact other’s salvation (1 Tim. 4:16). Whether through moral distinction, visible faithfulness, or lasting influence, a godly life shines Christ’s light and draws others toward Him.

**Introduction:** In early 2025, a video went viral of a young grocery store employee in North Carolina quietly paying for an elderly woman’s groceries when her card was declined. He didn’t know he was being filmed. He wasn’t doing it for attention, just kindness. But millions saw his selfless act, and his simple moment of compassion sparked national headlines. Why? Because in a world full of division, selfishness, and darkness, godly character stands out like a light in the night.

Jesus said in Matthew 5 that His followers are the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world.” Those aren’t just poetic words — they’re a call to live in a way that is radically different from the world around us. A godly life isn’t loud, but it is visible. It’s the quiet strength of integrity, the steady light of love, the bold stand for truth when compromise is easy.

Today, we’ll explore how living a godly life is not just about personal holiness — it’s about influencing others for Christ. Because when we truly live for Him, people can’t help but notice.

### **1. A godly life is distinct from the world. (Matt. 5:13)**

Salt was highly valuable in the ancient world. It was used to preserve food, enhance flavor, and even in religious offerings. Soldiers were even paid with it, hence the phrase, “worth his salt.” Jesus called His followers the “salt of the earth,” meaning that our presence should bring preservation and purity to a decaying world.

A godly life stands out. When we live with integrity and refuse to compromise on biblical truths thus displaying Christ-like love, others take notice. But Jesus warned that if salt loses

its flavor, it becomes useless. Likewise, if we blend in with the world, losing our distinctiveness, our testimony loses its power. A Christian who lives no differently than the world cannot point others to Christ. We are called to maintain our godly character and moral purity, showing people a better way—a life transformed by Jesus.

Are we truly being salt in the places we go: work, school, and home? Do people see a difference in our lives? When we remain distinct, others are drawn to the One who makes us different.

## **2. A godly life reflects Christ's character. (Matt. 5:14-15)**

Jesus not only called us salt but also “the light of the world.” Light represents truth, righteousness, and the presence of God. Just as a city on a hill is visible from miles away, a godly life shines brightly in a dark world.

To reflect Christ, we must demonstrate His love, grace, and holiness. This means displaying patience when we are wronged, honesty and integrity when we are tempted, and humility when we may be praised. Jesus says that no one lights a lamp and hides it under a basket. Yet, too often, Christians dim their light out of fear. We are too quick to compromise or be complacent.

We must boldly live out our faith. When we reflect Christ's character, people will see something different in us: peace in trials, love for enemies, and joy in suffering. That kind of testimony makes people ask, “What makes you different?” Such a testimony opens the door to share Christ with them.

Are we hiding our lights? Or are we living in such a way that people see Jesus in us?

## **3. A godly life influences others for the kingdom. (Matt. 5:16)**

Jesus concluded this passage with a call to action. Our light is not for our own benefit but to bring glory to God. When we live a godly life, it points people to Christ, not ourselves. Our good works, done in faith and love, draw others toward God.

This means living out our faith in practical ways. Serving those in need, forgiving those who wrong us, and standing firm in truth all serve as testimonies to the power of the gospel. When unbelievers see a life transformed by Christ, they cannot deny His presence. The goal is not for people to praise us but to glorify God.

Every action, word, and decision we make has an impact. The way we respond to hardship, treat our neighbors, and conduct ourselves on the job all contribute to our witness. If we are faithful in reflecting God's love and truth, He will use our lives to bring others to him.

**Conclusion:** A godly life is not just about personal holiness; it is a testimony to the world around us. Jesus calls us to be salt and light—distinct from the world but reflecting His character and

influencing others for His glory. People are watching, and the way we live speaks louder than our words.

Are we living in such a way that points others to Christ? Or are we blending in, hiding our light? As we seek to live godly lives, let us remember that our ultimate goal is not to bring attention to ourselves but to lead people to glorify our Father in heaven.

Let your light shine!

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