

What is God Saying to Me About God, Life, and Man?

1. Satan's demonic lies and teachings are designed to separate us from God, corrupt our thinking, and get us to believe the worst lies about ourselves, our life, and God (4:1-5).
2. If you let him, Satan will deceive you with his lies. He will twist the truth and get your thinking so upside down that you will believe the most obvious lies, e.g., "marriage is bad" and "eating certain foods is bad" (4:1-3).
3. The answer to Satan's deception is God's Truth, i.e., Satan's lies will not be able to fool you because God's Truth will reveal them for what they are: truth-sounding lies that are categorically false. Thus, God's Truth will protect you from Satan's lies (4:1-5).
4. The things that God created to bless us, like marriage and various foods, are not to be refused as if they're bad for us but received with thanksgiving. In fact, God's Word and our prayers of thanksgiving confirm that they are good for us (4:3-5).
5. A good servant of Jesus Christ not only studies what Jesus said, but obeys it, i.e., he lives it and shows others how to live it too (4:6).
6. Godliness is not a state; it's an action that is to be pursued, i.e., Godliness is not achieved by studying Bible doctrine; it is achieved only when we actually do (obey, carefully follow) what Bible doctrine says (4:6-8).
7. Godliness takes hard work and it's not achieved through study. It's only achieved by rigorous exercise, i.e., by training yourself in it, by practicing godliness (4:6-8).
8. The pursuit of godliness won't just benefit all aspects of your life now; it will benefit you in the afterlife (4:8).
9. Obeying what God says—in order to achieve a godly life now and reap its rewards in the afterlife—is worthy of our most dedicated effort and attention (4:6-9).
10. Following God will cost you but your efforts are never in vain because the God you serve is alive; He is the Savior of all men, but especially of those who put their trust in Him (4:8, 10).
11. Christians, especially ministers, are supposed to be shining examples of a godly life (4:12).
12. Bible doctrine is essential and must not be neglected for it contains the truths necessary to live the Christian life; without it we know nothing about ourselves, life, or God. However, the point of Bible doctrine is not to study it but to carefully live (follow, obey) it with our entire being (4:12, 13, 15, 16).
13. Christians are not supposed to be negative ads for Jesus and His salvation, but positive ones (4:15-16).
14. Walking faithfully with the Lord will save you and those around you from the miseries and difficulties of this life (4:16).
15. Satan will try to derail us by any means necessary, even by twisting God's Truth. But if we faithfully follow God's Truth, then it will protect us and those around us (4:1-16).