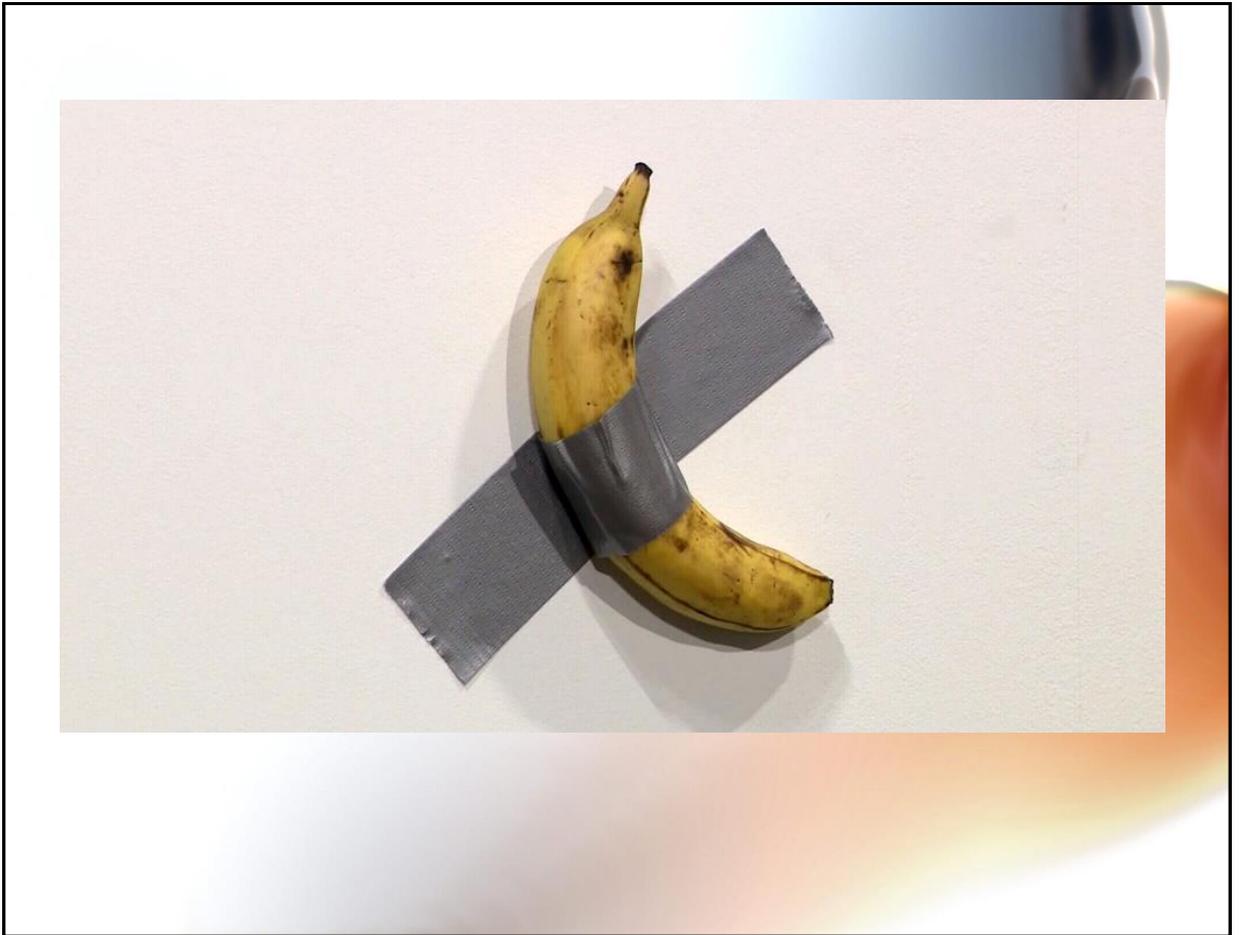




Faith in Action

True Godliness



Maurizio Cattelan presents first new work for a fair in 15 years—and it is a banana priced at \$120,000



Watch Out for False Godliness

- ^{NIV} **2 Timothy 3:1** But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be ...⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

➤ Form – *outward form, (mere) appearance*

➤ Godliness – lit., *good worship*

1. A particular manner of life characterized by reverence toward God and respect for the beliefs and practices related to him; *religion, piety*.
2. Behavior directed dutifully toward God; *piety, devotion, godliness*.

The Need for Godliness

- ^{NAS} **2 Peter 1:5** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; ⁶ and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ^{NAS} **2 Peter 3:11** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- ^{NAS} **1 Timothy 4:7** ... discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

Characteristics of False Godliness

- ^{NIV} **2 Timothy 3:1** But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.
- ^{NAS} **Galatians 5:19** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Cause of False Godliness

- ^{ESV} **2 Timothy 3:5** having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people... ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹ But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.
- ^{NAS} **Hosea 4:1** Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land...⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

A Frightening Precedent

- ^{NAS} **2 Kings 22:3** Now it came about in the eighteenth year of King Josiah that the king sent Shaphan ... to the house of the LORD saying, ⁴ "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest...⁸ Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." ... ⁹ And Shaphan the scribe came to the king ...¹⁰ Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king. ¹¹ And it came about when the king heard the words of the book of the law, that he tore his clothes. ¹² Then the king commanded ...¹³ "Go, inquire of the LORD for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the LORD that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

Zeal without Knowledge

- ^{NAS} **Romans 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.
- ^{ESV} **Matthew 15:6** ... So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸ "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

The Source of True Godliness

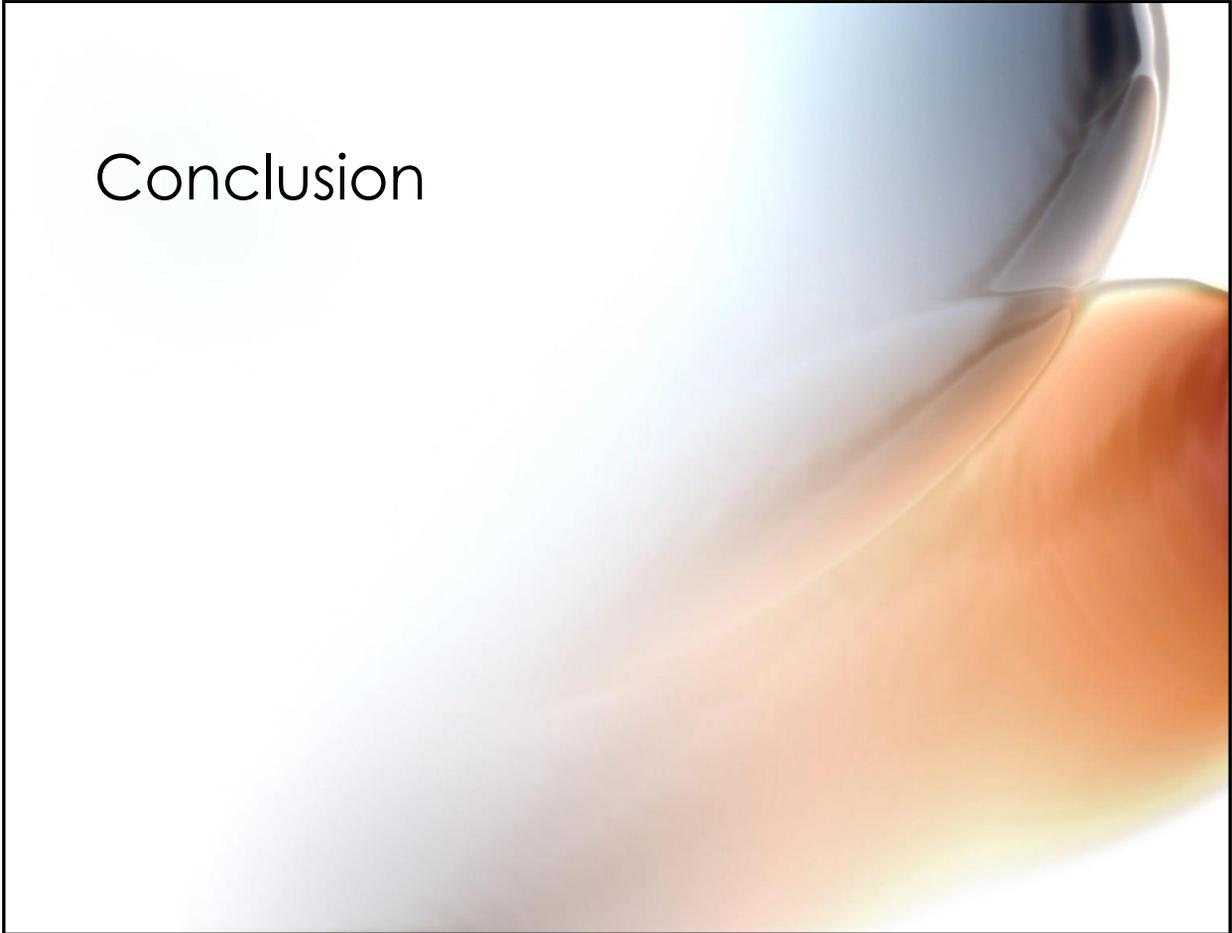
- ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 3:10** But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance...¹⁴ ... continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them;¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- ^{NIV} **Titus 1:1** Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness
- ^{NAS} **2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- ^{NAS} **James 1:21** ... in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves ²⁵ ... one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

The Power of True Godliness

- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
 - ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 3:15** But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; ¹⁶ but whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- *The power of true godliness lies in the word of God as it is empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit.*

Conclusion



Peace Offered Through Christ

- ^{NAS} **Luke 1:78** Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high shall visit us, ⁷⁹ To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."
- ^{NAS} **Romans 5:1** Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God... ⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly ...⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- ^{NAS} **Ephesians 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, ...

Peace Experienced through Godliness

- ^{ESV} **Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.
- ^{ESV} **1 Timothy 4:7** ... train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.
- ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 3:14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of...¹⁵ ... you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness