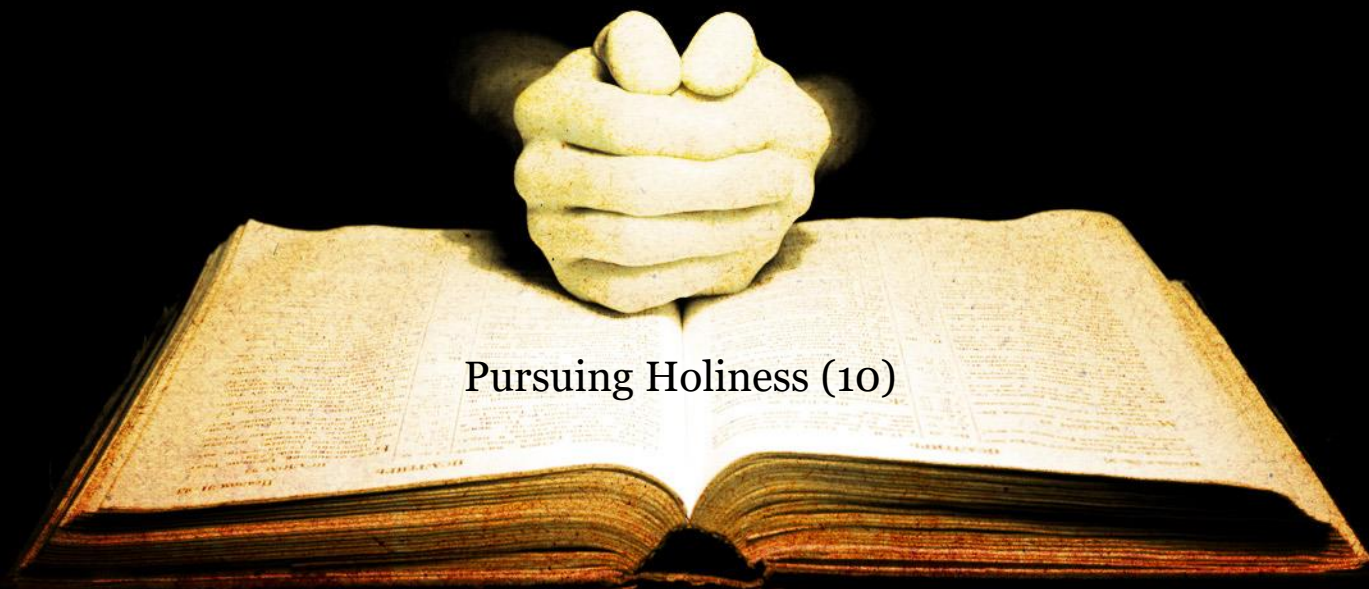


Respecting God's Word (2)



Pursuing Holiness (10)

Viewing the Bible with Reverence

- In our pursuit of holiness, as we strive to draw “Closer to God in 2022”, last week we established our need to respect God’s word. In our lesson today, I want to address how we ought to use the Bible in this endeavor.

The Bible as I pursue holiness

- I must believe it is the word of God
 - Last week we established WHY the Bible is the word of God and what that means
 - Do I really believe it????

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I must believe it is the word of God

- I believe it is infallible (without error)

- Men were guided in their writings -

**Galatians 1:11-12, John 16:13,
2 Peter 1:19-21, etc.**

- Hence, inspired - **2 Timothy 3:16-**

17, Psalm 19:7, Romans 12:2,

Proverbs 30:5, Psalm 119:128

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I must believe it is the word of God

- I believe it is God's complete revelation
 - **Jude 3** - the faith once for all delivered
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
 - **2 Peter 1:3** - all things that pertain to life and godliness

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I must believe it is the word of God

- Do I really believe this?

1 Thessalonians 2:13

(cf. 1 Corinthians 14:37)

This WILL affect how I approach my study of His word

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I have to reverence it

- Again, last week we showed that it is worthy of reverence.

Do I show due honor for His word?

Psalm 119:38, *Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You.*

- I should not treat it like a novel, or other books, even “how to” and practical guides.

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I have to reverence it

- I will not malign it in any way
 - by distorting its teachings

**2 Peter 3:16, 2 Corinthians 4:2,
2 Timothy 4:3-4,
cf. Matthew 15:3-9**

- by speaking disrespectfully of it

Do I show due honor for His word?

- **Psalm 119:11, 97** - O how I love
Your law...

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I have to reverence it

- What about our physical Bibles?
 - In many cultures, their “holy books” are treated with utmost reverence. Some view them as “holy relics”
 - Consider some of the first English Bibles - designed for pulpit use

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I have to reverence it

- What about our physical Bibles?
 - While we must be careful not to turn the Bible into a sacred relic (worship it - **cf. 2 Kings 18:4**), there is something to be said about treating it with respect
 - knowing it CONTAINS the Word of God!
 - When you pick it up, do you see it as God's word, or something else?

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I have to reverence it

- Does it get tossed in the trunk until “next Sunday”?

Does it get buried beneath your secular library and get lost ?

Remember, it contains, “the oracles of God” - **cf. 1 Peter 4:11, Romans 1:17, 1 Corinthians 14:37, etc.**

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I have to reverence it

- Consider this in light of our CASUAL attitude so prevalent in our society! Deny it or not, typically how we treat objects and occasions is indicative of our attitude toward such.

Do NOT be cavalier with your copy of
God's word!

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I must study it regularly

- Pursuing holiness is a full-time commitment!

I will not know what to do if I do not listen to God's instructions!

Psalm 1:1-2

Acts 17:11,

2 Timothy 2:15 - diligence;

2 Peter 3:18

Joshua 1:7-8 - shall not depart,
meditate in it,...

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I need a proper ATTITUDE toward it

- Believe it can be understood -
Ephesians 5:17, cf. 3:3-4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Delight in His word - Psalm 119:47,
97, etc.
 - **Psalm 119** - “delight” - 9x
“love” - 12x
 - The spiritually minded takes pleasure in learning from and listening to God

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I need a proper ATTITUDE toward it

- Open minded -
Will I change if I learn that I need to?
Acts 17:11, 18:26-27 – Apollos,
10:33 – Cornelius, etc.
NOTE: This does NOT mean I “fall for anything” - **cf. Ephesians 5:14**
- I need to be disciplined in my studies
– **2 Timothy 2:15**
- every day, regularly and with a plan

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I need to handle it accurately

- **2 Timothy 2:15** - rightly dividing the word of truth (NASB - “accurately handling...”)
- I will respect its boundaries -
1 Corinthians 4:6, cf. Deuteronomy 12:32, Revelation 22:18-19
- I will respect context
- I will not twist it to say what I want it to say - **cf. 2 Peter 3:16**

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I need to believe it can change me

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** - it can make me complete

Acts 20:32 – able to build you up and give you an inheritance

Psalms 119:9, 104-105

The Bible as I pursue holiness

I MUST intend to obey it!

- **1 John 5:2-3, 2:3-6** - how we know and love God
- James 1:21-25** – doers and not hearers only
- Psalms 119:1-2**
- Matthew 7:21-23** - not enough to say you believe...

The Bible IS God's
message to us!
HOW am I letting it
influence me?





Let us pray!