

True Piety Versus Pietism

08/03/14
by Bob DeWaay

They Were Devoted to Authoritative Revelation From God

Acts 2:42 (NASB)

They were continually **devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching** and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1

Doctrines Devotional!

Acts 2:42a (NKJV)

And they continued steadfastly in **the apostles doctrine**

Teaching is *didache* in the Greek and can be translated doctrine

If you are inclined to think that a doctrinal book is the antithesis of a devotional book, I hope to change your mind (John MacArthur: *Faith Works*: 11)

2

God Uses the Means of the Word Which Expresses God's Truth to Sanctify

2 Timothy 2:19b-21 (NASB)

The Lord knows those who are His, and, everyone who names the name of the Lord is to **abstain from wickedness**. Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, **if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified**, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

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%Piety+Is Not %Pietism+

1Timothy 5:4 (NASB)
but if any widow has children or grandchildren, **let them first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family**, and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

%piety+is *eusebeo_* which is a verb

4

%Piety+Is Not %Pietism+

2Timothy 3:5 (NASB)
holding to a **form of godliness**, although they have **denied its power**; and avoid such men as these.

%godliness+is *eusebeia* which can be translated %piety+

5

%Piety+Is Not %Pietism+

1Timothy 4:1-3 (NASB)
But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will **fall away from the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and **doctrines of demons**, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who **forbid marriage** and advocate **abstaining from foods**, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

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The Answer to Powerless Piety Is Scripture

2Timothy 3:16, 17 (NASB)

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

7

The Answer to Powerless Piety Is Scripture

1Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

8

False Doctrine Harms Piety

1Timothy 6:3-4 (HCSB)

If anyone teaches other doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness, he is conceited, understanding nothing, but has a sick interest in disputes and arguments over words.

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Pietism Promotes False Piety

Colossians 2:20-22 (NASB)

If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" (which all refer to things destined to perish with use) in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

10

Pietism Promotes False Piety

Colossians 2:23 (NASB)

These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

11

Pietism Promotes False Piety

James 5:12 (NASB)

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

Matthew 5:34 (NASB)

"But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, +

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