

~GODLY DEVOTION (440)

[Greek, *eu-se'bei-a*]

- The Sacred Secret Of Godly Devotion
- Training With Contentment Is Essential
- The Power Of Godly Devotion
- The Mystery Of This Lawlessness

• Reverence, worship, and service to God, with loyalty to his universal sovereignty. The Scriptures use the Greek word *eu-se'bei-a* and related adjective, adverb, and verb forms.

• The noun as used in the Bible may be translated literally as **well-reverencing** and applies to reverence or devotion toward that which is genuinely holy and righteous.

• To your knowledge self-control, to your self-control endurance, to your endurance **godly devotion**. (2 Peter 1:6), Int

• The antonym of **godly devotion** is ungodliness or irreverence Greek, *a-se'bei-a*.

• In **Christian Words**, Nigel Turner wrote: *Eusebeia* occurs occasionally in a sense which suggests personal religious devotion in the contemporary inscriptions, but its more general meaning in the popular Greek of the Roman period was loyalty. For Christians *eusebeia* is the highest kind of devotion to God. [1981, p. 111]

• The Bible's use of the expression **godly devotion** refers to devotion with loyalty to Yehowah God personally.

• The related adjective *eu-se-bes'*, meaning devout, of **godly devotion**, occurs in,

• A **devout** man and one fearing God together with all his household, and he made many gifts of mercy to the people and made supplication to God continually. (Acts of Apostles 10:2)

• As soon as the angel that spoke to him had left, he called two of his house servants and a **devout** soldier from among those who were in constant attendance upon him. (Acts of Apostles 10:7)

• Yehowah knows how to deliver people of **godly devotion** out of

trial, but to reserve unrighteous people for the day of judgment to be cut off. (**2 Peter 2:9**)

- According to **John A. H. Tittmann**, *eu-se-bes'* expresses that reverence for the Deity which shows itself in actions, especially in the worship of God, he is *eu-se-bes'* who shows that piety by acting. [Remarks on the Synonyms of the New Testament, Edinburgh, 1833, Vol. I, pp. 253,254]
- The verb *eu-se-be'o* is used at;
- But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let these learn first to practice **godly devotion** in their own household and to keep paying a due compensation to their parents and grandparents, for this is acceptable in God's sight. (**1 Timothy 5:4**)
- With regard to the conduct of children or grandchildren toward their widowed mothers or grandmothers. **A Greek and English Lexicon of the New Testament**, by **Edward Robinson** (1885, p. 307), states that *eu-se-be'o* can have the meaning of being pious toward anyone.
- For this reason some translations of this passage read: **They are to learn first of all to do their duty to their own families.** [JB, compare The New English Bible and The Bible in Basic English.]
- God is the Establisher of the family arrangement.
- On account of this I bend my knees to the Father. (**Ephesians 3:14**)
- To whom every family in heaven and on earth owes its name. (**Ephesians 3:15**)
- And the Bible likens the household of God to the family unit. Therefore, reverence, or **godly devotion**, in family relationships in the Christian household would actually be reverence to God and obedience to God's commands regarding the family and proper conduct of its members.
- The rendering of this text, If any widow has children or grandchildren, let these learn first to practice godly devotion in their own household, **NW**, is in harmony with this understanding.

·· **The Sacred Secret Of Godly Devotion**

- The prime example of **godly devotion** is Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy;
- Indeed, the sacred secret of this **godly devotion** is admittedly great. He was made manifest in flesh, was declared righteous in spirit, appeared to angels, was preached about among nations, was believed upon in the world, was received up in glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)
- Adam, the perfect man, had not set the perfect example of **godly devotion**. None of his children, born imperfect, could do so. Who would be able to do this?
- The coming of God's Son to earth and his integrity-keeping course gave the answer, revealing the solution to the sacred secret. He is the one to whom Timothy should look for the perfect example of conduct manifesting **godly devotion**.
- But in case I am delayed, that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in God's household, which is the congregation of the living God, a pillar and support of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15)
- Jesus Christ was the one man to manifest **godly devotion** perfectly, in every sense, proving that man in the flesh can maintain such **devotion**. Under severe trials, right down to the end of his earthly course Jesus was loyal, guileless, undefiled, separated from the sinners.
- For such a High Priest as this was suitable for us, loyal, guileless, undefiled, separated from the sinners, and become higher than the heavens. (Hebrews 7:26)
- No flaw could be found in his integrity, to accuse him before God. He said before his death; I have conquered the world, also, The ruler of the world is coming. And he has no hold on me.
- I have said these things to you that by means of me you may have peace. In the world you are having tribulation, but take courage! I have conquered the world. (John 16:33)
- I shall not speak much with you anymore, for the ruler of the world is coming. And he has no hold on me. (John 14:30)

- **No unrighteousness could be found in him. He could rightly say to his enemies; Who of you convicts me of sin?**
- **Who of you convicts me of sin? If I speak truth, why is it you do not believe me? ([John 8:46](#))**
- **The solution to, the sacred secret of this **godly devotion**, is so great and means so much to mankind that it is to be proclaimed worldwide. Jesus Christ himself is the basis upon which Christian godly devotion and conduct in the congregation are patterned.**

•• Training With Contentment Is Essential

- **Strenuous training is necessary on the part of the Christian in order to achieve full **godly devotion**. It entails the enduring of opposition and persecution.**
- **In fact, all those desiring to live with **godly devotion** in association with Christ Jesus will also be persecuted. ([2 Timothy 3:12](#))**
- **A persons aim, or objective, in **training** himself is not to achieve selfish materialistic gain. But there is gain to the one who is content with his lot, who continues in **godly devotion** along with self-sufficiency.**
- **It holds promise of the life now, namely, spiritual health, satisfaction, happiness, and a purpose in living. It also holds promise of the life that is to come.**
- **But turn down the false stories which violate what is holy and which old women tell. On the other hand, be training yourself with **godly devotion** as your aim. ([1 Timothy 4:7](#))**
- **For bodily training is beneficial for a little, but **godly devotion** is beneficial for all things, as it holds promise of the life now and that which is to come. ([1 Timothy 4:8](#))**
- **To be sure, it is a means of great gain, this **godly devotion** along with self-sufficiency. ([1 Timothy 6:6](#))**
- **For we have brought nothing into the world, and neither can we carry anything out. ([1 Timothy 6:7](#))**

- So, having sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things. (**1 Timothy 6:8**)
- Do not become wise in your own eyes. Fear Yehowah and turn away from bad. (**Proverbs 3:7**)
- May it become a healing to your navel and a refreshment to your bones. (**Proverbs 3:8**)
- My son, to my words do pay attention. To my sayings incline your ear. (**Proverbs 4:20**)
- May they not get away from your eyes. Keep them in the midst of your heart. (**Proverbs 4:21**)
- For they are life to those finding them and health to all their flesh. (**Proverbs 4:22**)
- Though persecution and hardship may come upon the person having **godly devotion**, he need not fear, for, Yehowah knows how to deliver people of godly devotion out of trial.
- Yehowah knows how to deliver people of **godly devotion** out of trial, but to reserve unrighteous people for the day of judgment to be cut off. (**2 Peter 2:9**)
- The apostle Peter counsels Christians to add to their endurance **godly devotion**.
- Yes, for this very reason, by your contributing in response all earnest effort, supply to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge. (**2 Peter 1:5**)
- To your knowledge self-control, to your self-control endurance, to your endurance **godly devotion**. (**2 Peter 1:6**)
- He admonishes them to be persons identified by holy acts of conduct and deeds of **godly devotion** in order to survive the judgment of Yehowah's day.
- But by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the **ungodly** men. (**2 Peter 3:7**)

- Yet Yehowah's day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a hissing noise, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be discovered. (**2 Peter 3:10**)
- Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in holy acts of conduct and **deeds of godly devotion**. (**2 Peter 3:11**)
- And if the righteous man is being saved with difficulty, where will the **ungodly** man and the sinner make a showing? (**1 Peter 4:18**)

· The Power Of Godly Devotion

- A person professing **godly** devotion must recognize its power to change his personality and must be true and genuine in following godliness.
- However, you, O man of God, flee from these things. But pursue righteousness, **godly devotion**, faith, love, endurance, mildness of temper. (**1 Timothy 6:11**)
- But you did not learn the Christ to be so. (**Ephesians 4:20**)
- Provided, indeed, that you heard him and were taught by means of him, just as truth is in Jesus. (**Ephesians 4:21**)
- That you should put away the old personality which conforms to your former course of conduct and which is being corrupted according to his deceptive desires. (**Ephesians 4:22**)
- But that you should be made new in the force actuating your mind. (**Ephesians 4:23**)
- And should put on the new personality which was created according to God's will in true righteousness and loyalty. (**Ephesians 4:24**)
- He must recognize that God's Word is His expression of the way of **godly devotion**, and so he must conform to its precepts.
- Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's chosen ones and the accurate knowledge of the

truth which accords with **godly devotion** (**Titus 1:1**)

- Forasmuch as his divine power has given us freely all the things that concern life and **godly devotion**, through the accurate knowledge of the one who called us through glory and virtue. (**2 Peter 1:3**)
- Since **godly devotion** is toward God personally, his Word and spirit will bring one to know Yehowah personally, intimately, and to become more like him to be an imitator or copier of him.
- Therefore, become imitators of God, as beloved children. (**Ephesians 5:1**)
- Such a person will reflect more and more the fine qualities of Yehowah God.
- And all of us, while we with unveiled faces reflect like mirrors the glory of Yehowah, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, exactly as done by Yehowah the Spirit. (**2 Corinthians 3:18**)
- If anyone who professes to serve God relies on his own ideas instead of adhering to the Bible and if his teaching does not accord with **godly devotion**, thus failing to reflect the teachers devotion to God, he becomes mentally diseased.
- If any man teaches other doctrine and does not assent to healthful words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, nor to the teaching that accords with **godly devotion**. (**1 Timothy 6:3**)
- He is puffed up with pride, not understanding anything, but being mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words. From these things spring envy, strife, abusive speeches, wicked suspicions. (**1 Timothy 6:4**)
- The apostle Paul warned his younger fellow minister Timothy about **ungodly** ones who professed devotion to God.
- He cautioned Timothy to handle the Word of the truth aright, shunning empty speeches that violate what is holy, that Timothy might not be turned from the way of **godly devotion**.

- He then pointed out that there would be those who would practice all sorts of wickedness, hypocritically having a form of **godly devotion** but proving false to its power.
- Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright. (**2 Timothy 2:15**)
- But shun empty speeches that violate what is holy, for they will advance to more and more ungodliness. (**2 Timothy 2:16**)
- But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. (**2 Timothy 3:1**)
- For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal. (**2 Timothy 3:2**)
- Having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness. (**2 Timothy 3:3**)
- Betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God. (**2 Timothy 3:4**)
- Having a **form** of **godly devotion** but proving false to its power, and from these turn away. (**2 Timothy 3:5**)
- Jude likewise shows that such ones would have no genuine reverence for God or **devotion** to him, no respect or appreciation for his undeserved kindness.
- They would be persons using godliness for materialistic or sensual gain. Their hypocrisy is revealed in their practice of acts of loose conduct.
- My reason is that certain men have slipped in who have long ago been appointed by the Scriptures to this judgment, **ungodly** men, turning the undeserved kindness of our God into an excuse for loose conduct and proving false to our only Owner and Lord, Jesus Christ. (**Jude 1:4**)

·· The Mystery Of This Lawlessness

• Herein lies another mystery, diametrically opposed to Yehowah's sacred secret. It is **the mystery of this lawlessness**. This was a mystery to true Christians because in the apostle Paul's day the identity of the man of lawlessness had not taken form in a definitely established and clearly identifiable class.

• Even after that man would take form, his identity would continue to be mysterious to most persons because his wickedness would be practiced under the guise and in the name of **godly devotion**. It would, in fact, be an apostasy from true godly devotion.

• Paul said that the mystery of this lawlessness was already at work in his day, because there was a lawless influence in the Christian congregation that would eventually result in producing this apostate class.

• Finally, this one would be done away with by Jesus Christ at the manifestation of his presence. This apostate, Satan-operated man would lift himself up over everyone who is called god or an object of reverence **Greek, *se'ba-sma***.

• Thus this great opposer of God as a Satanic instrument would be extremely deceptive and would bring destruction to those following its practices. The effectiveness of the man of lawlessness would lie in the fact that his wickedness would be cloaked in a **hypocritical godly devotion**.

• Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**)

• He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called god or an object of reverence, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god. (**2 Thessalonians 2:4**)

• Do you not remember that, while I was yet with you, I used to tell you these things? (**2 Thessalonians 2:5**)

• And so now you know the thing that acts as a restraint, with a view to his being revealed in his own due time. (**2 Thessalonians 2:6**)

• True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only

till he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way. (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**)

- Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of his presence. (**2 Thessalonians 2:8**)
- But the lawless one's presence is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents (**2 Thessalonians 2:9**)
- And with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved. (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**)
- So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie. (**2 Thessalonians 2:11**)
- In order, that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (**2 Thessalonians 2:12**)
- Be on the watch for the false prophets that come to you in sheep's covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves. (**Matthew 7:15**)
- Not everyone saying to me; Lord, Lord! Will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. (**Matthew 7:21**)
- Many will say to me in that day; Lord, Lord! Did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name? (**Matthew 7:22**)
- And yet then I will confess to them; I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness. (**Matthew 7:23**)