

To Serve God One Must Know What He Requires: "Eusebeia": Proper Respect for God & His Mandates; the Problem of Lying & Self-Deception, 1 Jn 1:6

- 7) The one who adjusts is described in English translations by the word "godly." The Greek word is **εὐσέβεια, eusebeia** and does not contain the word for God. Its definition expresses the believer's proper response to the righteousness of God:

Friedrich, Gerhard (ed.). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1971), 7:176-78; 182-83:

εὐσέβεια. In the Greek World. It is plain that in the Hellenistic period εὐσέβεια [*eusebeia*] expresses in the general sense a proper attitude to the gods, "piety." (p. 176)

Piety is what is done directly towards the gods. Εὐσέβεια consists in the worship paid to the gods. Since one has to know how the gods are served aright, an element of knowledge enters into piety. (p. 177)

Thus the true content of εὐσέβεια for the educated Greek is reverent and wondering awe at the lofty and pure world of the divine, its worship in the cultus, and respect for the orders sustained by it. (p. 178)

In the New Testament. In the Pastorals [1 and 2 Timothy and Titus] εὐσέβεια denotes a particular manner of life. The way of life controlled by εὐσέβεια separates the doctrine of false teachers from "sound" doctrine. (p. 182)

Εὐσέβεια means "piety," i.e., conduct in relation to God. It is not an ideal but a manner of life. In the common use of εὐσέβεια in the Pastorals distinction is made from an ecstatic Gnosticising movement in the churches. This movement proclaimed asceticism and regarded creation as evil or bad. In this connection it came to despise all secular orders and standards, to reject all authority, to emancipate women and to regard the family with contempt. (Paul) could not allow that this whole approach of his adversaries was εὐσέβεια, a true honouring of God, since God was for him the Creator and Redeemer of all men. But he extends the concept to cover all man's conduct (ἐν πάσῃ εὐσεβείᾳ [*en pasēi eusebeia*] in 1 Timothy 2:2 = in every type of reverent conduct ["in all godliness," NASB], and he uses it to denote respect for the divinely created orders which his opponents despise. In the Pastorals, then, εὐσέβεια denotes a manner of life. It is the honouring to God the Creator and Redeemer of all men. (p. 183)

- 8) Our Lord made it clear what is required to serve and worship Him in:

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

- 9) To love Him the believer must keep His commandments. But to keep them he must know them. To know them he must learn them by means of Bible study.
- 10) When we learn the righteous standards that are revealed to us then we are obligated to execute them. The most efficient area of doing so is the sophisticated spiritual life or spiritual maturity.
- 11) Once we know the standards that God would have us keep and comply with them, then we are involved in true worship.
- 12) *Dikaiousunē* is the word that describes divine integrity complied with by a believer. *Alētheia* is the truth that is contained in the revelation of divine standards in Scripture. *Eusebeia* is the mature believer's extensive knowledge of these standards that enables him to identify and recognize the lie.
- 13) When a mature believer knows the truth, he is not deceived by the lie. This cannot be said of the believer whose residence and function is in the cosmic systems of arrogance and hatred.

- 14) If a believer's lifestyle is stagnated in the cosmic systems then he does not know the truth and ignorance of it prevents him from detecting the lie when it is presented.
- 15) Consequently, he has first of all deceived himself which makes it possible for others to deceive him as well.

1 John 1:6 - If we assert that we have continuous fellowship with God and continue to make choices for facilitated wheel-tracks in the sphere of the cosmic systems, therefore, we keep on lying because we keep on deceiving ourselves
...

ψεύδομαι, *pseudomai* -

“to lie, deceive, to deceive oneself”

- present: Progressive or Pictorial: Used to describe an action in progress, or in a state of persistence. As a pictorial progressive present it is used to denote the continuation of existing results; a fact that has come to be in the past, but is emphasized as a present reality. Believers have facilitated a behavior pattern of lying because life in the cosmic systems has resulted in self-deception. In verse 8, self-deception is emphasized but is evident in verse 6.
- middle: Indirect: The subject acts with a view toward participating in the results of the action, i.e., to deceive. A person who is self-deceived participates in the deception that is inherent in the act of lying.
- indicative: Declarative: The cosmic believer is in fact lying because of self-deception from which are developed illusions and even hallucinations from residence and function inside the cosmic systems of arrogance and hatred.