



APRIL 20TH-22ND, 2012

WARD HAVEN RETREAT CENTER

LESSON 3- KNOWING GOD'S HOLINESS THROUGH HIS WORD DNow 2012 KEY VERSE: PSALM 119:9-14

*Watch "Texting While Walking" video (how many times do we read and not even pay attention?)

Question: How do you relate to the girl in the video? Are you lacking in quality or quantity?

Intro Statement: There is a holy God who isn't some distant deity who wants nothing to do with us. Instead, he seeks for us to worship and to know him. He wants a relationship with us.

Transition: So far, we've been challenged to PAUSE the things in life that cause us to not focus on God's holiness and we've rediscovered that prayer is how we communicated with a holy God. Let's read **1 Peter 1:14-15** to see a call that God gives throughout the Old Testament and then Peter now reminds us of.

*We are called to be immature any more, but to grow (**verse 14**)

*We are called to be holy

Question: So how are we to be holy? An answer is given to us in **Psalm 119** as the writer asks the rhetorical question of how can someone be "pure" in God's eyes (or "holy").

Background: **Psalm 119** is a collection of 176 verses about God's Word. It is broken into 22 sections of 8 verses which all start with the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It is here that we discover how a young person can be pure (or holy).

I. **Psalm 119:9-10** ~ We are not just called to read God's Word, but to keep it

A. If we want to be found holy in the eyes of a holy God, we must actually be reading it!

B. As we discover God's commands, we are to pursue them with all of our hearts

II. **Psalm 119:11**~ We are called not just to study God's Word, but to memorize it

A. This means we have to at least be studying it!

-it would be a shame if we did lots of reading just to let it go in one ear and out the other

B. As we study it, God leads us to live a life that pleases Him

III. **Psalm 119:12-14**~ We are called to read and live out God's Word with joy!

A. God's Word is exciting and should be read with excitement

B. Look at all the ways the writer uses for God's Word throughout Psalm 119

IV. **Psalm 119:15-16**~ We are called to make God's Word a daily part of our lives

A. In our thoughts

-are you faithfully thinking about it?

-put it to a tune

B. In our actions

-with it hidden in our hearts, it should guide the way we live ("I will not forget Your Word")

-as you have encountered His Word this weekend, how will it change you?

***James 1:22-25**