

Jesus Confronts Religiosity

John 5: 39-47
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
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Four Pitfalls We Need to Avoid:

Pitfall 1- To study the Scriptures but miss getting to know Jesus. (verses 39-40)

“You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want.”

- John 5:39-40 (The Message)

Pitfall 2- To have hearts that do not have the love of God.

“The possibility always exists that my life, my church, my tradition, my denomination, even my Bible will become relics of religious curiosity instead of living instruments of God... There are specialists who can cite Scripture and verse, who can measure orthodoxy with exacting precision, who can identify the religious speck in someone's eye from a great distance, but in whom love for God does not exist.”

- From *The NIV Application Commentary: John*
by Gary M. Burge p. 187.

Pitfall 3- To live for the approval of our peers rather than the praise of God.

“Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

- Galatians 1:10

Pitfall 4- To put your hope in the wrong place.

Don't put your hope in...

1. Being Good
2. Going to Church
3. Being Baptized
4. A belief in God