



## Handle With Care

Psalm 19:7-14

Devoted Muslims have strict rules about handling the Quran: “The Quran is the word of Allah, and it should be treated with the upmost respect and reverence.... Handle the Quran with clean hands and avoid placing it on the ground or in disrespectful places....” How much more careful we should be in handling our Bibles, showing our respect for the living Word of *the only true God* (Heb. 4:12).

Anything precious to us will be

treated very carefully and be protected, whether it be a newborn baby, a cherished marriage relationship, or even a prized possession.

The crucial matter, however, is not how we touch the cover and pages of our Bibles, but how our hearts and minds “handle” God’s Word itself. Second Corinthians 4:2 speaks of “not walking in craftiness, **nor handling the Word of God deceitfully.**” In the original, “handling ...deceitfully” is one word which means to adulterate, falsify, ensnare, deceitfully corrupt. It is used only here in the New Testament. A related word is used in other writings and means to lure (or snare) by using bait-- holding out the worm and concealing the hook. It is also used of adulterating gold, wine, etc.

A similar thought is found in 2 Cor. 2:17, “For we are not as many, **which corrupt the Word of God.**” We know that Satan used God’s Word deceitfully to tempt Eve, and again to try to tempt the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 4:6). History records many cults and isms begun and perpetuated by those who used their Bibles deceitfully. *May we approach God’s Word reverently and prayerfully* and seek His help in understanding and applying it. May we never dare to distort His Words or use them for personal gain or to deceive others. May we desire God’s Word more than gold; may it ever be most precious to our hearts.

George Zeller, [www.middletownbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org)



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