

What Will Please God?

Psalm 147:10-11

Thesis: What kind of heart and faith pleases God? In this lesson we will look at several texts to try and understand what it means for us to fear God. How can we be **terrified** of God and still find **hope** in Him at the **same time**?

- I. Contextual background of Psalm 147
 - A. Assigned to the dedication of the wall during Nehemiah's time - A hymn of praise sung at the dedication (Nehemiah 12:27-43)
 - B. Wonderful works of God
- II. The Benefits of Fearing God
 - A. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him and hope in Him (Psalm 147:11)
 - B. God's friends (ESV) are those who fear Him, and He will reveal His eternal covenant with them (Psalm 25:14) - **So fear and friendship go together with God.**
 - C. God delivers those who fear Him, **fear and safety go together.** (Psalm 34:7)
 - D. God loves those who fear Him, so fear and love go together with God (Psalm 103:11)
- III. A Terrifying Sanctuary
 - A. God must be our dread (Isaiah 8:12-13)
 - B. "**Then**" If God is your dread, then He becomes a sanctuary for you (Isaiah 8:14; cf. 1 Peter 3:14-15)

Conclusion:

1. God takes great pleasure in those who fear Him and hope in Him (Psalm 147:11)
2. When we start relying on our strength, alarm systems, armies, etc., we should fear God and run back to Him (**Psalm 147:10**)
3. The entire Psalm is a psalm of praise for God's tender mercies and khesed (loyal/covenant love). From the beginning to the cross He has demonstrated His loyal love - plan of salvation.

Study Questions:

1. Based on Psalm 147:10-11, explain what pleases God in your own words.

2. From Psalm 2:14; 34:7; and 103:11, what do you learn about the fear of the Lord?

3. From Isaiah 8:12-14, how would you describe the relationship between the fear of the Lord and hope in the Lord?