

Fear the Lord

There are some fears that we must avoid

Do not be afraid of . . .

1. Social shunning. Jn.7:13
2. Persecution. 2 Tim.1:7. Ac.2
  - a. “We become brave by doing brave acts”
  - b. People learn from adversity
3. Death. Ac.18:...6-11 . . . 12-17

## Mt.10:28, do not fear...

- OT: 1. terror; 2. respect, reverence, awe.  
Gn.20:11
- NT: fear – Mt.17<sup>6</sup> And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid

# I. Wisdom Literature Emphasizes Fear of the Lord – Proverbs

- Pr.1:7, beginning of knowledge
  - *Fear* is the powerful impression of God upon the soul, which leads us to please Him and to put far away everything that offends Him
- Pr.1:29, lack of fear separates from God and leads to disaster. Why? 30, will not listen.
- Pr.8:13, leads to hatred of evil
- Pr.14:26-27, fountain of life gives confidence
- Pr.16:6, causes us to depart from evil

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Fear of the Lord – Proverbs

II. NT Shows What Godly  
Fear Does For Us

## Acts 9:31, peace, edification

- Ro.3:19, whatever the law says...
- Children of God who live as children of world lose everything
- Church grew when Christians lived godly lives

When persecution ceased, their godliness vanished...they blended with society

## Phil.2:12, work out our own salvation

1. Past obedience: you have always obeyed
2. Personal responsibility: work out your own salvation
3. Passion: fear and trembling –
  - a. Serious caution...
  - b. Self-distrust...
  - c. Vigilance against temptation . . .
  - d. Taking heed lest we fall . . .
  - e. Shrink from offending God . . .



- **Fear:** recognizes our weakness, strength of temptation, wholesome dread of offending God...
- **Trembling:** fear, based on Ph.2:9-12 ...

All will give account to the Lord

Obedience is not casual or light

Hb.4:1-2, 11

## Carelessness causes consequences

Two unapproved examples –

1. Israel feared Canaan, Num.13-14

- Mt.14:30-31, Peter
- Hb.3:19, unbelief of Israel

2. Israel heard good news...enjoyed rich land, protection... BUT many did not trust God

**They turned to idols...**

Parable of sower: problem is not in message...

We have heard. What will we do with it?

## Fear prompts us to serve God, Hb.12:28

- Reverence leaves everything to will of God
- Hb.5:7-8, Jesus – godly fear . . . reverent submission (NRSV)
  - \*\* Even when facing the cross, His one purpose: do Father's will
- Hb.11:7, Noah, godly fear . . . Respected the warning (NRSV)

I. Wisdom Literature Emphasizes  
Fear of the Lord – Proverbs

II. NT Shows What Godly  
Fear Does For Us

III. Fear of Lord Comes  
Through Word of God

## Deut.31:9-13

- Gather every seven years to hear Word
- Why? Learn to fear the Lord... to carefully observe all the words of the law
- “Seven years: isn’t this long enough to forget Him?”
  - Dt.6:1-9
  - Josh.1:8
  - 1 Tim.4:...13-16
  - 2 Pt.3:...7-14