

THE FEAR OF THE LORD!

“Why do the wicked transgress?” the answer, ***“There is no fear of God before his eyes.”*** (Psalm 36:1b)

(Acts 9:31) Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the **fear of the Lord**.

The “fear of the Lord” and the “fear of judgement” are **two separate** things.

Fear of judgment:

(1 John 4:18-19) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

1 John 4:18 - **Fear** – phobos: (phobia) to be frightened, afraid.

“Paralyzing fear!”

The “fear of the Lord” - fear - terrifying, awesome, respect, reverence.

“Liberating fear!”

Providing us with a “testimony,” rather than “torment!”

4 - attributes associated with the “fear of the Lord.”

(1) The fear of the Lord is - Clean

(Psalm 19:9a) “The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever...”

Clean: *taor* – to be ceremonially clean, pure (physically, morally, ethically)

Only Christ can “cleanse” us!

(Revelation 1:5b-6) To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(2) The fear of the Lord - Hates evil

(Proverbs 8:13) The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

3 characteristics of the “evil way.” Pride, arrogance, and a perverse mouth.

Evil way – disagreeable, unpleasant (causing misery), vicious, ethically wicked.

(3) The fear of the Lord produces - Confidence

(Proverbs 14:26) In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

“Strong confidence!”

Strong – boldness; politically, personally, and socially.

Confidence - refuge, trust, security.

(Psalm 16:8) I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

(4) The fear of the Lord produces - Life

(Proverbs 14:27) The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

(John 7:38) “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

“Re-directing” through “repentance,” our actions, thoughts and feelings, through the “fear of the Lord!”

(Psalm 19:14) Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

APPLICATION: “Three lessons”

1) The fear of the Lord must be learned.

(Psalm 34:11-14) Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

(Psalm 119:71) It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

2) The fear of the Lord must be greater than the fear of man.

(Proverbs 29:25) The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

3) Envy is the “enemy” of the fear of the Lord.

(Proverbs 23:17-18) Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off.

(Proverbs 14:30) “...envy is rottenness to the bones.”

Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery. Winston Churchill

“True Contentment” - (1 Timothy 6:6) Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

CONCLUSION: I Samuel 4 – “Ichabod” – literally means: where is the glory, or no glory!

(Exodus 33:18) And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

Acrostic for “fear” - Faith – Evidence – Awe – Respect.

Psalm 36:5-7 – 5 benevolent characteristics of God, bestowed upon those who “fear of the Lord!”