

The Fear of the Lord

Dr. Michael Reeves

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The Fear of God and Eternity

The presence of God produces trembling

- Throughout Scripture, people tremble when they encounter the glory of God. Even creation itself trembles at His presence (Isa 6:1-5; Nah 1:5-6).
- The question is not whether eternity will be marked by fear, but what kind of fear it will be.

Christ's return will bring two kinds of fear to their fullness

- For unbelievers, Christ's appearing will produce terror before the Judge from whom they long to hide (Rev 6:15-17)
- For believers, the same glorious appearing will produce overwhelming wonder, delight, praise, and filial fear.
- The difference is not in the glory of Christ, but in our relationship to Him.

Hell is the culmination of sinful fear

- Sinful fear sees God as a threat, hates His holiness, and seeks to flee from His presence.
- In hell, this dread reaches its final expression as sinners stand under God's righteous judgment.

Heaven is the culmination of filial fear

- The redeemed will see God's goodness, beauty, and holiness more clearly than ever and will respond with perfect love, joy, wonder, and awe.
- Heaven may be described both as a world of love and a world of holy fear, because heavenly love overflows with wonder at God.

"Friends, to grow in this sweet and quaking wonder at God is to taste heaven now."

– Dr. Michael Reeves