

The Fear of the Lord

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Review

- Last time we considered God as Creator, now this lecture focuses on God as Redeemer. As Dr. Reeves contends, “We must know God as both. If we stop at the first, then we don’t really know Him at all.”

Fearing God as Father

The knowledge of God as our Redeemer leads to a deeper, richer fear. A filial or family fear.

- We’re not just accepted creatures before the Creator, but beloved, adopted, adoring children before the most loving Father

In the Gospel we see God as a Father who gives us His righteousness and shares with us His blessedness. Our redemption changes our fear

- Martin Luther: “(Through Christ) we may look upon His Fatherly heart and sense how boundlessly He loves us. That warms our hearts, setting them aglow with thankfulness.”
- It is through the Gospel that our fear is transformed from a trembling, slavish terror to a trembling, filial wonder
- This right fear rests wholly on the sufficiency of Christ’s work, not our own efforts.

Jesus is the firstborn among many brethren. It’s in Him that we share in the standing, status, and delight of the Divine Son before the Father.

- Jesus shares with us the overwhelmed devotion of a child marveling at the kindness and glory and complete magnificence of the Father
- So, the right fear of God is not at all like being afraid. This new union cannot be broken... we just don’t want the warmth of communion to be cooled or fractured

We must be careful then how we think about God, because having the right knowledge is bound up with the right fear

- Knowing that sin is more than disobedience. It’s a relational matter of loving the wrong things