

The Fear of the Lord

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Review

- From lecture 1: “A healthy fear of God controls all our other fears and is the antidote for anxiety.” This lecture builds on that truth
- Related: Our teaching last week from Heb 11:3, that God is the Creator-Owner of everything

Fearing God as Creator and Redeemer

Introduction

- There are different aspects to the right fear of God. John Calvin produced a useful template, illustrating two steps or levels to the knowledge of God
 - The knowledge or fear of God as Creator, and the knowledge or fear of God as Redeemer
- This lecture focuses on God as Creator, with an introduction to God as Redeemer. We’ll expand on this second part next week.
- The Fear of God as Creator: That staggering, weak-kneed, trembling response that sees God in His transcendence,
 - Above and beyond all that He has made. Holy, majestic, all-powerful, and dazzling in His perfections (Ps 8:3-4)

Seeing God rightly as Creator cultivates humility, repentance, and contempt for self-complacency and conceit (Job 42:5-6)

- There is a sense in which all people know something of this fear. But they are left dreading, not loving, the Creator
- But for the believer it is a worshipful, devoted fear. A loving fear that falls down facing, not fleeing, God, knowing Him not just as Creator but also as Redeemer
 - Our wonder at the magnificence of the Creator increases when we know it is the magnificence of the kindest Savior (Heb 11:6)

Contemplating the splendor of God, stoking our fearful wonder at Him, is at the heart of Christian health (2 Cor 3:18)

- His magnificence distracts us from our self-obsession, and so we begin to develop a taste for something other than ourselves
- The fresh contemplation of the glory of God that will bring the right perspective to all we are going through. (Jn 17:3)

But there is a higher fear than the fear of the Creator. We need to press on to another level of knowledge of God, the fear of God the Redeemer in Christ

- Knowing the character of God through His redemption makes our fear very different, and is just what we need to make our fear specifically and happily Christian