

December 26

Proverbs 9:10 (NIV) ¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. **Hebrews 10:31 (NIV)** ³¹It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

A Bible museum in Germany was preparing for the Christmas season. After much research, those in charge felt the Bible encouraged people to "take a look at the diversity of gender identities from biblical and modern times and find a divine answer that fits all questions: You are good as you are." To further demonstrate this diversity, the museum hosted a play that pictured Jesus as a transgendered Christ. Their goal was to present a gospel and a Christ Who welcomed and accepted everyone no matter what their orientation.

This devotion is not about their beliefs; it is about Christ Who came to bring light into the darkness. Solomon tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. As I thought about that verse, I realized that if the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, then without a fear of the Lord there can be no knowledge or wisdom. Jesus is the Beginning and the End. A fear of the Lord means we have a healthy respect for the God of Creation and for His Word. He is a loving God, but He is also a holy, jealous God. When I read about that museum, I realized that they must not have any fear of the Lord, so they lack true knowledge. As we celebrate this Christmas season, it can seem contradictory that we are to "fear" the Christ child, yet we are. Job learned that when the LORD questioned Job and his friends. Jesus will never be made into our image. He will never conform to the world's beliefs. He will never turn from His word. The Christ child is no longer a child. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is truly a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of a living God Who can and will hold each of us accountable.