

The Fear of the Lord 03/10,11/2018

I have 53 plus verses of Scripture from the Old Testament to teach on today. My topic is: THE -

I. FEAR OF THE LORD AS TAUGHT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

- A. Exodus 18:21
- B. Leviticus 25:17, 36, 43
- C. Deuteronomy 4:10, 5:29, 6:2, 6:13, 10:12, 13:4, 13:11, 28:58, 31:12-13
- D. Joshua 24:14
- E. I Samuel 12:24, 25
- F. II Samuel 23:3
- G. II Kings 17:38, 39
- H. II Chronicles 19:9
- I. Job 1:9, 28:28
- J. Psalms 60 or more references 19:9, 22:23, 25:14, 34:7-9, 103:13 & 17, 111:10, 115:11 & 13, 147:11, + more...

II. THE MOST PRACTICAL OF OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ON THE FEAR OF THE LORD FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS:

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| A. 1:7 & 29 | H. 15:16 & 33 |
| B. 2:5 | I. 16:6 |
| C. 3:7 | J. 19:23 |
| D. 8:13 | K. 22:4 |
| E. 9:10 | L. 23:17 |
| F. 10:27 | M. 24:21 |
| G. 14:26-27 | N. 28:13,14 + others... |

I will leave a copy of this message with the pastor and would like to encourage each of you to get a copy from him later so that you can read all these Scripture verses on the Fear of the Lord; and think and pray more over the message. Obviously, I don't have time to teach about all these verses in the time frame that we have, so I have chosen

10 verses to read, out of this list, to explain what the Fear of the Lord truly IS, as taught in the Old Testament. A person who has a genuine Fear of the Lord in the Old Testament is equivalent to a true believer in the New Testament. Please let me read and please listen carefully.

Deu 5:29 'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!

Deu 10:12-13, "Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"

Psa 103:13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

Psa 103:17-18, "But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember His precepts to do them.

Pro 8:13, "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; ..."

Pro 22:4, "The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life."

Pro 28:13-14, "**He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion. How blessed is the man who fears always, But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.**"

What is the Fear of the Lord as taught in the Old Testament? Please allow me to lay some groundwork so that we can understand exactly what the Fear of the Lord is, and help explain what these Scripture verses mean that I have just read:

Please turn with me to the book of Genesis, chapter 1, as we read part of verse 26 and all of verse 27. Starting in verse 26, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...". Dropping down to verse 27, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

These verses tell us clearly that God created Adam and Eve in His very image, giving to man attributes reflecting His own divine nature. We know that part of that image was personality, reasoning abilities, a free will with the ability to freely choose right or wrong, as well as possibly other characteristics that we won't talk about here. But, I believe the most important attribute of God's Nature was - God created Adam and Eve holy and righteous; without sin and without a sin nature. Because of that part of God's nature given to man at creation, man could have an intimacy in a relationship with God and communicate with God face to face, as Adam and Eve did in the garden before they sinned. Why did God give to man this important attribute of a holy nature? Because God is Holy, Righteous and without sin; and it is impossible for God, because of His Holy nature, to allow sin in His presence; even one sin! We need a perfect righteousness to have a relationship with God and to get into heaven when we die. God is the total opposite of sin and God desires greatly for His own creation, man, to know Him, love Him, obey Him, trust Him and commune with Him. God required that characteristic of sinlessness to allow Adam and Eve to commune with Him and have an intimate relationship with Him. But God wanted to see if Adam and Eve would love Him and trust Him of their own free will and choose to obey Him proving their love for Him and trust in Him over the lies of Satan. He didn't want robots to love Him. Jesus said clearly in John 14:21, "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; (and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." Let it be clear: Adam and Eve at the beginning of creation were sinless, holy and righteous; and had the free will

(complete ability) to choose to obey God to prove their love for God and trust in God; or, not to obey Him proving their unbelief and lack of trust in Him and in what He says (His Word). Obedience to God, to His Word, is the evidence that you truly BELIEVE AND TRUST GOD and BELIEVE HE IS LOVE and truly loves you! Of course, according to the Scriptures, we know that Adam and Eve freely and willingly chose to believe Satan's lies rather than God's truth spoken clearly to Adam and therefore obeyed Satan trusting in his lies. They willingly chose to believe Satan instead of God - Who, because of His Holy nature, cannot lie. Their unwillingness to obey God showed their lack of trust in Him and unbelief in His Words which caused God, who is the opposite of sin and is Holy, Righteous, Pure, Loving, Kind, Gracious, along with all His other holy, sinless attributes - which is His very nature - caused God to separate Himself from them and them from Him. There can be no communion with God with sin (unbelief and a lack of trust in Him) in our minds, hearts and lives. Also, being Holy, God had no choice but to bring His wrath and displeasure against that one act of disobedience; so, He cursed all that He created: Satan, Man and all His creation. That's how Holy and opposite to sin He is. He has to judge sin! His Holy, Sinless Nature demands judgment against sin, even one sin. All the curses came because of one act of disobedience, a just and righteous judgment deserved by man. GOD HATES SIN. Adam and Eve became sinners at that very moment of disobedience and were immediately separated from God. Had they believed God instead of believing Satan (the father of lies), Adam and Eve would have remained sinless, holy, righteous, good, kind, just, loving - they would have maintained the image of God they were created in; and would have maintained an intimate relationship with our living God (JUST WHAT GOD DESIRED). The earth and all creation would have not been cursed. Man, earth and all creation, except Satan and his angels, would have remained HEAVEN, exactly like Revelation 21 tells us heaven will be. They could have enjoyed **all** the blessings of a perfect creation and there would have been no reason for judgement and a curse on man and

all creation of which Christians are not exempt (wars, sicknesses, diseases, natural disasters, plant diseases, evils and sufferings brought upon us due to our own sinful actions, death, etc., etc., etc.). Hell would have been for Satan and his angels who followed him, ONLY! Because of Adam and Eve's free and willful choice to not believe and trust God, but, to believe Satan and obey him, they became sinners and lost that part of the image of God (sinless nature) they were created in.

Therefore, they died immediately spiritually and later physically. GOD IS COMPLETELY INNOCENT, RIGHT and JUST. MAN IS COMPLETELY AT FAULT, GUILTY AND WRONG. MAN SINNED, NOT GOD. Our sufferings in this life, even as Christians, are due to God's Righteous hatred for sin and His JUST, Holy, Righteous Wrath and Judgment against sin which is also seen throughout the Old Testament: The Apostle Peter says, in his warning to believers and his encouragement to them to maintain their righteous lifestyle, II Peter 2:4-6, "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; ...". The Old Testament continues to show God's hatred for sin and His wrath and righteous judgments against sin: the 10 plagues upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians while Moses' was delivering Israel out of bondage; and then the Egyptians destruction in the Red Sea; God's destruction of the nations living in the promise land when Israel entered the promise land to take possession of what God had promised them since the promise made to Abraham - Joshua 11:20 says, "For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses."; Furthermore, Israel's Assyrian Captivity due to

their rebellion against God and refusal to turn from their sins and turn back to obedience to God; Judah's Babylonian Captivity due to their refusal to repent and return to God; and there are many other Old Testament examples!!! **GOD'S HOLY NATURE HATES SIN AND WILL POOR OUT HIS JUST AND RIGHTEOUS WRATH AND JUDGMENT AGAINST SIN!!! GOD IS ALL POWERFUL AND SOVEREIGN AND NO ONE OR NOTHING CAN STOP HIS WRATH OR JUDGMENTS!!! HE WILL DO AS HE SAYS and RIGHTLY SO!!!**

The other purpose of being created in God's image is that **GOD'S NATURE IS**, besides Holy, Sinless and Righteous: Perfect Love, Merciful, Gracious, True, Pure, Clean, Good, Kind, Total Peace, Joy, (the fruits of the Holy Spirit), etc., etc., etc. Therefore, God loves truth, righteousness, holiness, cleanness, purity, Love (Agape Love), etc., etc., etc. These attributes are what He made us for!!! He made us in His image - so we were designed for Godly living. Sin will utterly destroy us if we don't turn from it because we were created in His Image - FOR GODLY LIVING!!! We cannot be truly happy until we are living Godly lives!!! God loves us and doesn't want us destroyed but living in a relationship with Him. **That is why He calls us to repentance.** Living in a way that is according to His image brings life and is LIFE. Living in sin, doing evil, brings death and is death - that is Satan's image. God's Holy, Righteous Love therefore demands that we live in righteousness and truth. **The Fear of the Lord is simply this: taking seriously - taking to heart and truly believing God's Holy Nature to be a reality; The Scriptural revelation GOD has given to us of Himself in the first 5 books of the Bible ONLY are sufficient to understand Who He is and how He relates to man and to His creation - how He desires to bless us and not curse us.** His Hatred for sin - His wrath and judgment against sin and against anyone who refuses to turn from sin is a reality. Because one sincerely **believes God is Holy and judges sin and blesses Godly living, revealed to us through Scripture**, he respects and reverences GOD. He truly believes He is All Powerful. He believes in His Perfect Love, His Holiness, His Power, His Sovereignty over all

things and he truly **Fears** His wrath and judgment against sin; so much so, that he turns from sin and strives to walk in righteousness and truth, knowing that He rewards those that do so. **This strong belief and conviction that God's Nature is of such as has been described and which the Scriptures clearly teach,** brings about a true, sincere Fear of the Lord. And a sincere Fear of the Lord will bring about genuine repentance and turning from sin; and, a genuine striving after true holiness and righteousness, to keep from God's wrath and judgment falling on one's self. A sincere Fear of the Lord will cause the true believer to **confess and forsake his sins to find the forgiveness and compassion of God.** A true believer, one who sincerely Fears God, believes God absolutely forgives sin and gives mercy towards him when he does as He says. A sincere Fear of God will cause you to stay away from sin because you know His wrath and judgment will come upon you if you continue willfully in your sins ignoring His call to repentance and faith in Him. You simply truly believe God says what He means and means what He says in His Word; and has all power to accomplish all that He says. No one can stay His power. You **reverence and respect and fear Him because He is Almighty God** and you are convicted and convinced that He is Who He says He is **according to His Scriptural revelation of Himself.** This is what the "Fear of the Lord" IS according to Old Testament absolute truth!!!

In closing, please listen closely to what God's Word also teaches:

Romans 3:10-18, "... as it is written, 'THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE. THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS; WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS; THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

In other words, no one born from Adam, has a sincere and true Fear of God without the influence and direct work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and upon their minds, hearts and souls!!!

Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- ..." We all are born with a sin nature we inherited from Adam, our father. We all are born with hearts of stone (hearts in rebellion to God and His Christ) so that we can never love God as we should and as He should be loved, and we will always love our sins more. And, we freely and willfully choose to be that way. We will reject Christ until we are born again by the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus said you must be born again to enter the kingdom of God. You will never have a sincere Fear of God until you are born again and have the Holy Spirit living in you. It's the Holy Spirit's saving and sanctifying work in you that gives you a genuine Fear of God to truly turn from your sins and believe and trust Christ with your life. Even to persevere in the Faith.

Romans 5:18-19 says, "So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (Jesus Christ) the many will be made righteous." Genesis chapters 1-3 teaches us that you absolutely must be sinless to have a relationship with God, to commune with God and to live in heaven. God is Holy and will not allow sin in heaven. None of us are perfectly righteous and never can be in and of ourselves, even after we are born again (saved). We need a perfect righteousness to have a relationship with God and be able to commune with Him. Also, we need a perfect righteousness to get us into heaven to be with our Holy

God Who cannot allow sin in His presence. Jesus Christ alone is that perfect righteousness we receive by faith. Listen to:

Romans 3:21-24, "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe**; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**; ..." When you hear Christ's call to repent and believe the gospel; and, **you respond to His call by coming to Him with a genuine desire to turn from all your sins and a genuine desire for Him to save you and make you a child of God, He will not reject you**. By the regenerating and renewing work of His Holy Spirit, He will save you. He is a Merciful, Gracious and Loving God. When Christ saves you, He: Forgives you and cleanses you from all your sins; He takes out your heart of stone and gives you a heart of flesh to love Him with; He quickens your spirit to life in Christ from being spiritually dead in your trespasses and sins; **He baptizes you with the Holy Spirit, putting His Spirit in you to live in you, causing you to obey and follow Him**. And finally, **He gives to you** true repentance unto life and true sorrow and grief over your sins (Titus 3:5-7; Ezekiel 36:24-27, 31). WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE!!! NOTHING WE HAVE DONE, ARE DOING, OR WILL DO can save us or make us righteous. When you truly believe that Jesus died for you and trust in Him alone to save and change you; **then and only then**, when He **died** on the cross, your sins - past, present and future - **were** forgiven and **removed** from you as far as the East is from the West; and, the full wrath of God **was taken, by Christ upon Himself on the cross**, so that you will never, ever experience His wrath upon you. He has nothing but grace and His eternal love for you, upon you, towards you, with you and in you. Because of the saving and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in you, you **will grow** to have a genuine Fear of God in your heart and turn from

your sins and walk in holiness and righteousness, having the image of God restored in you by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Christ becomes your righteousness and clothes you in His perfect righteousness by your faith in Him and in His completed work on the cross. This assures you of an intimacy with Christ, communion with Christ - therefore, with God the Father also - Who chose you to be His own and sent Christ, His Son, to make you His own. And this also guarantees your entrance into heaven at the instant, you, breath your last.

Have you been truly born again? Do you have a genuine Fear of God because of the Holy Spirits work in your mind, heart and soul? If not, come to Christ now and let Him make you a child of God by His saving grace - by the regenerating and renewing work of the Holy Spirit in you!!! He will make you into a new creature in Christ. You will become God's adopted son forever, in this life and in the life to come. He will never leave you or forsake you. Come to Him now!!! Let Him save you from your sins and restore the image of God in you. There is no other way to enter the Kingdom of God! Jesus said, **"I am the way, the truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Me."** Don't die in your sins and remain under the wrath and judgment of God eternally for refusing to heed the call of Christ to repent and believe the gospel - while He's calling you at this moment! Cry out to the Lord Jesus now to forgive, cleanse, save and change you; or, forever pay for your sins in hell, and then, be cast into the Lake of Fire to be separated from our Merciful, Gracious, Forgiving and All Powerful, All Loving God - **Who says what He means and means what He says!!!** Come to Christ now and pray to Him. Humble yourself before Him and ask Him to forgive all your sins and come into your life and save and change you forever, to be His child!!! You can do this, at this moment, quietly in your mind and heart, where ever you are, whatever you are doing!!! Bow your heads, close your eyes right now and you talk to the Living Christ, and tell the LORD JESUS you desire for Him to save you and change you!!!

Let's Pray!!!