

## **The Fear of the Lord**

*Robert Martin*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him" (Psa. 89:7). [All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.]
- B. The world goes about their daily lives without respect and fear of the Lord.
  - 1. Turn on the TV and you see it.
  - 2. Listen to the radio and you hear it.
  - 3. Pick up the newspaper and you read about it.
- C. This is not new!
  - 1. Look at the world in the days of Noah (Gen. 6:5, 7).
  - 2. Look at Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18, 19).
  - 3. Look at some in Paul's day (Rom. 1:24-32).
  - 4. Look at some in Timothy's day (1 Tim. 3:1-7).
- D. The Bible definition of "*the fear of the Lord*":
  - 1. "The fear of the Lord is clean (pure)" (Psa. 19:9).
  - 2. "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (Prov. 8:13).
  - 3. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10).
  - 4. "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life" (Prov. 14:27).

**The fear of the Lord will lead to:**

**1. KNOWLEDGE.**

- A. The source of godly knowledge:
  - 1. God - "He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge? The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile. Blessed is the man who You instruct, O Lord, And teach out of Your law" (Psa. 94:10-12).
  - 2. Scriptures - "And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:15).
- B. The value of knowledge:
  - 1. Superior to rubies - "For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her" (Prov. 8:11).
  - 2. Increases strength - "A wise man is strong, Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength" (Prov. 24:5).
- C. Our attitude toward knowledge:
  - 1. Grow in - "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18).
  - 2. Add to - "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge" (2 Pet. 1:5).

**2. WISDOM.**

- A. The source of heavenly wisdom:
  - 1. The Lord - "Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab and every gifted artisan in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work" (Ex. 36:2).

2. God's Word - "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people'" (Deut. 4:6).
- B. The value of wisdom:
  1. Gives happiness - "Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding" (Prov. 3:13).
  2. Keep us from evil - "My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, That you may preserve discretion, And that your lips may keep knowledge" (Prov. 5:1-2).
- C. Our attitude toward wisdom:
  1. Should be acquired - "Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Prov. 23:23).
  2. Should increase in - "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

### **3. TRUE RICHES.**

- A. The source of true riches:
  1. The Lord - "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him" (Rom. 10:12).
  2. God's Word - "I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches" (Psa. 119:14).
- B. The value of true riches:
  1. A fountain of life - "The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, To avoid the snares of death" (Prov. 14:27).

#### **THE FEAR OF THE LORD**

---

2. Gives life - "For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it" (Ecc. 7:12).
- C. Our attitude toward true riches:
  1. Be humble to gain true riches - "There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches" (Prov. 13:7).
  2. By humility and fear of the Lord - "By humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches and honor and life" (Prov. 22:4).

#### **4. RESPECT FOR GOD'S ETERNAL PRECEPTS.**

- A. Proverbs 12:26 - "The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray."
- B. Proverbs 24:21 - "My son, fear the Lord and the king; Do not associate with those given to change."
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:33 - "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits."
- D. Joshua 1:7 - "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Joshua 24:14-15 - "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if this seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves

this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the god of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

- B. It is time that we stand up and be counted for the Lord.
- C. It is decision time, whose side are YOU on?
- D. Choose NOW!

Robert Martin has worked as a missionary in the Pacific Islands for 33 years.
---