

“FEARING GOD”

Introduction

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I. Introduction - Psalm 128:1 Rev.14:1

A. In dealing with the nature of the fear of God, the very first problem we face is the poverty of the English word “fear.”

I. Old Testament Language

a. The Old Testament uses seventeen different Hebrew words and one Aramaic word to describe different kinds of “fear.”

1). Stand in awe - Psalm 22:22-24; Psalm 33:8

2) Tremble before Him – Deuteronomy 2:25; 1 Samuel 31:3

3) Be in dread of Him - Psalm 89:7; Isaiah 8:13; Isaiah 29:23

4) Living in dread – Deuteronomy 28:66; 2 Chronicles 29:20; Genesis 31:42, 53

5) To be frightened of God – Exodus 15:16; Exodus 23:27; Job 9:34

6) The terror of God – Daniel 6:26

7) The fear of God – Exodus 3:6; Psalm 119:120; Habakkuk 3:2; Psalm 33:8; Psalm 34:9; 86:11; 112:1; 119:63

8) Terror and Fear – Deuteronomy 9:19

9) Worship with trembling – Psalm 2:11

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2. New Testament Language

a. The “fear” of God in the New Testament embraces all the emotions of the human heart.

1) Rev. 6:15-17; 2 Cor. 5:11; Heb. 4:11; 10:26-27, 31

2) Hebrews 12:28-29

B Study of wisdom - wisdom is the application of divine truth to human experience; it is the act of reaching the right end with the right means.

C. God gives wisdom through

1. Regeneration by God - the new birth

a. Ezekiel 11:19 - He gives an undivided heart

b. Ezekiel 36:26 - He gives a new heart and a new Spirit

c. Jeremiah 32:38-41 - He also gives us a “fear of God”

2. Veneration of God - the fear of God

a. fear = reverence, awe, a holy trembling because of who He is.

1). Proverbs 1:7

2). Proverbs 1:29

3). Proverbs 2:5-6

4). Proverbs 9:10

b. The fear of God is a sweet and blessed work of the Spirit of grace given by God to His children.

1). Hebrews 12:28 - grace...godly fear

2). Isaiah 11:2 - evidence of the Spirit

3). Isaiah 66:2 - tremble at His Word