

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### “THE FEAR OF THE LORD” (PART 1)

#### INTRODUCTION:

**A. The phrase “In the fear of the Lord” is recorded in at least sixteen verses in the Book of Proverbs.**

#### **B. Background to Proverbs**

1. Solomon is the principal writer of Proverbs. His name is listed in Proverbs 1:1; 10:1; 25:1.
  - Solomon also authored Ps 27; 127; Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.
2. Solomon is known for wisdom – He spoke “three thousand Proverbs” and composed “A thousand and five songs” (1 Kings 4:29-32).

#### **C. Definition of Proverbs**

1. A Proverb is a short verse or statement of truth or moral lesson.
2. A Proverb is a clever bit of practical advice.
3. A Proverb is a statement of Truth from the Bible.

**D. The Book of Proverbs is considered as the James (New Testament) in the Old Testament.**

#### **E. Meaning of “The Fear of the Lord”**

1. It is to have respect for God and to be obedient to Him and His Holy Word.
2. It is a continual awareness of the presence of God, being accountable to Him, which should affect every attitude and action in the life of a Believer.
3. It is seeking to please, (submitting to and obeying) God at all times and in all our ways.

#### **NOTE:**

“The fear of the Lord” does not mean we should be afraid of God nor does it mean that we are to wait for God to get even with us for something we have done.

#### **I. “THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE” (Prov 1:7)**

- **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov 1:7).**
  - A.** Not only is the fear of the Lord the beginning of knowledge. It is the first step toward wisdom. It is to trust God who is the foundation of wisdom.
  - B.** It is to give God a place of priority in our lives, then wisdom is in its proper place.

- C. There is an enormous difference between worldly knowledge and Godly wisdom.
- “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Cor 1:25).

- **Always keep matters in the proper order – Fear the Lord**

**D. “Fools despise wisdom and instruction”**

1. The natural man (fools) do not fear God (Ps 14:1; 36:1; 53:1; Rom 3:18).
2. “Fools” cannot be told anything. They will not listen, they are conceited and only learn lessons the hard way, if at all.
  - **“The fear of the Lord” means reverence for God and respect for His Word, a willingness to listen and a promptness to obey.** (Warren Wiersbe)

**II. FOOLS DO NOT CHOOSE “THE FEAR OF THE LORD”** (Prov 1:29-30)

- **“<sup>29</sup> For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: <sup>30</sup> They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof” (Prov 1:29-30).**

**A. “Fools” (Unbelievers), reject wisdom, God and His Counsel.**

- A fool is someone who is born mentally naïve and morally irresponsible.

**B. “Fools” choose not “The Fear the Lord” – They choose:**

- Foolishness over Wisdom - Sin over Righteousness
- Self over Christ - Hate over Love
- Hell over Heaven - Violence over Peace
- Death over Life - Evil over Good
- Lies over Truth

**C. All who reject wisdom will face the consequences of their decision.**

The rejectors will live with their decision in eternity. They will reap the fruit of the seeds they have sown.

- “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out” (Num 32:23).
- <sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Gal 6:7-8).

**III. UNDERSTANDING “THE FEAR OF THE LORD”** (Prov 2:5)

- **“Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God”** (Prov 2:5).

- A.** To understand “The Fear of the Lord” is to recognize that it is a relationship with Him. The reward for seeking God is to Find Him and to Find Him is to experience a living, growing relationship with the God who is Love, Sovereign, Immutable, Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent.

**B. Those who “Fear the Lord” will be given knowledge and understanding by the Lord.** When we trust, love and obey God, we will seek to learn more about Him and His will for our lives.

**C. God gives us wisdom, knowledge and understanding through His Word.**

- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16).

**D. It is Christ who reveals God the Father to all who believe in Him. To know Christ is to know God.**

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).
- “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30).

**IV. “FEAR THE LORD AND DEPART FROM EVIL” (Prov 3:7)**

- **“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil”** (Prov 3:7).

**A. “Fear of the Lord”** causes a person to depart from evil – sinful practices. It will cause one to cease from sin for the right reason, which is to obey and please the Lord.

**B. “Be Not Wise In Thine Own Eyes”**

We are not to depend on our own intellect for wisdom, as it is nothing in comparison to the wisdom of God, who is Omniscient (all knowing). Our wisdom falls far below God’s wisdom and is foolishness compared to God’s wisdom. Our wisdom leads to false ideas, concepts and assumptions.

- “<sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Rom 1:22-23).

- “Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” (1 Cor 1:20).

❖ **We can get information “On-line” (From Google), but Wisdom is from “On-High” (From God).**

❖ **Wisdom is the right use of knowledge: All True Spiritual Wisdom is found Only in Christ.**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

- **“<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”** (Isa 55:8-9).
- **“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”** (James 1:5).

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **A. The Fear of the Lord**

The fear of the Lord our days will prolong, In trouble afford a confidence strong,  
Will keep us from sinning, will prosper our ways, And is the beginning of wisdom and grace.  
The fear of the Lord preserves us from death, Enforces his word, enlivens our faith,  
It regulates passion, and helps us to quell, The dread of damnation and terrors of hell.

### **B. Better than Rubies**

In May of 2012, a 32-carat Burmese ruby and diamond ring—that was part of the collection of Lily Safra, one of the richest women in the world—was sold at an auction. The pre-auction estimate for the sale was \$3–5 million, but the final sale price ended up at \$6.7 million. It is believed to be the most expensive ruby ever sold.

As valuable as rubies are, the Bible tells us that wisdom is far better and more valuable. No earthly treasure can compare to wisdom because nothing else offers the same protection, benefits, and blessings that wisdom does.

**“For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it” (Proverbs 8:11) - Source: Forbes.com, May 14, 2012**

### **C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**



From the Teaching Ministry of:  
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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**