

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

“THE FEAR OF THE LORD” (PART 2)

SCRIPTURE READING:

- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov 1:7).
- “²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire” (Heb 12:28-29).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Believer’s Fear of the Lord is to respect Him, obey Him, love Him, submit to His discipline and to worship Him in awe.
- B. To Fear the Lord should impact how the Believer lives his life. We should live our lives in a way that pleases God.

C. The Lord desires that His people both fear and love Him too.

Deuteronomy 10 says that keeping God’s guidelines involves both. In verse 12, we are told “to fear the Lord your God” and “to love Him.” To “fear” the Lord God is to give Him the highest respect. For the believer, it is not a matter of feeling intimidated by Him or His character. But out of respect for His person and authority, we walk in all His ways and keep His commandments. Out of “love,” we serve Him with all our heart and with all our soul—rather than merely out of duty (v.12).

Love flows out of our deep gratitude for His love for us, rather than out of our likes and dislikes. “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Our fear and love for God enable us to walk willingly in obedience to God’s law - (Our Daily Bread – Albert Lee).

D. “The Fear of the Lord” does not mean that Believer’s are to be scared or afraid of God.

We have no reason to be scared of God. God has promised the Believer that “nothing shall separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:38-39). God has also promised that He “will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5).

I. “THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TO HATE EVIL” (Prov 8:13)

- “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate” (Prov 8:13).
- Wisdom “is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov 1:7). Wisdom is the character of God which has been revealed in His Son, Christ Jesus.

A. Wisdom Hates Evil Conduct

Wisdom hates all forms of evil in general, evil thoughts, evil words, evil actions, evil companions, evil worship, false doctrines and false teachings.

B. Evil Conduct also includes Doing the Right Things with the Wrong Motives

In His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6), Jesus warned against giving, praying, and fasting with the wrong motives – to be seen and praised by others.

C. A “Forward Mouth”

A “forward mouth” refers to profanity, hurtful words or speech, that covers up evil behavior. This also includes boastful language that gives credit and glory to the individual rather than Glorifying God. Always give God the Glory He is due:

- “I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images” (Isa 42:8).

- “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor 10:31).

D. God Hates All Forms of Evil and So Should Believers

We belong to God, therefore, we are to hate the things that are evil to Him. God hates sin and Believers should also hate sin.

- “¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. ¹⁷ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear” (1 Peter 1:15-17).

II. “THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM” (Prov 9:10)

- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding” (Prov 9:10).

A. The Fear of the Lord is the Requirement for Wisdom

There is no wisdom apart from Fearing the Lord.

1. When a Believer Fears God, He knows and trusts the Lord.

2. **“The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”**

The wisdom of God – “The Holy One” – gives Believers understanding about God and His nature, such as, love, peace, salvation, grace, justice and holiness.

B. The Path of Wisdom

According to Bill Crowder, Proverbs 9:10 reminds us, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Only by allowing God to transform us can we overcome the foolish decisions that cause so much trouble. With His loving guidance, we can follow the pathway of godly wisdom.

Loving Father, forgive me for the seemingly limitless capacity I have to be foolish.

Teach me in Your wisdom, so that my life might be pleasing to You and a blessing to others around me. **God’s wisdom is given to those who humbly ask Him for it** (Bill Crowder - Precept Austin).

III. “THE FEAR OF THE LORD PROLONGETH DAYS” (Prov 10:27)

- “The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened” (Prov 10:27).

A. Those Who Fear the Lord Walk in Righteousness and Obey Him

Believers that fear the Lord, obey Him and walk in righteousness – enjoy countless blessings and more days on earth. They do not engage in sinful activities and behaviors that usually lead to a shorter life.

B. A Longer Life is a Blessing of Fearing of the Lord

(Prov 3:1-2; 16-17; 4:10; 9:11; 10:2)

C. Those Who Live Sinful Lives Experience Premature Death

Sinful activities, such as gang violence, murder, drugs, alcohol abuse and other vices lead to premature death.

D. Youth – Beware of the Fifth Commandment

- “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Exod 20:12).

- “¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Eph 6:1-3).

- “Evangelist Bill Glass asked a group of a thousand prison inmates, “How many of you had parents who told you that you would end up in prison one day? Almost, every one of the inmates raised his hand.”

- ❖ “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord” (Col 3:20).

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. Always fear the Lord – Love, Trust and Obey Him

B. God hates sin, therefore, we are to hate sinful activities and behaviors since it is displeasing to God.

C. Always seek to please God in all that you do.

D. Always Praise the Lord’s Holy Name.

- “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name” (Ps 103:1).

MEMORY VERSE:

“Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways” (Ps 128:1).

CONCLUSION:

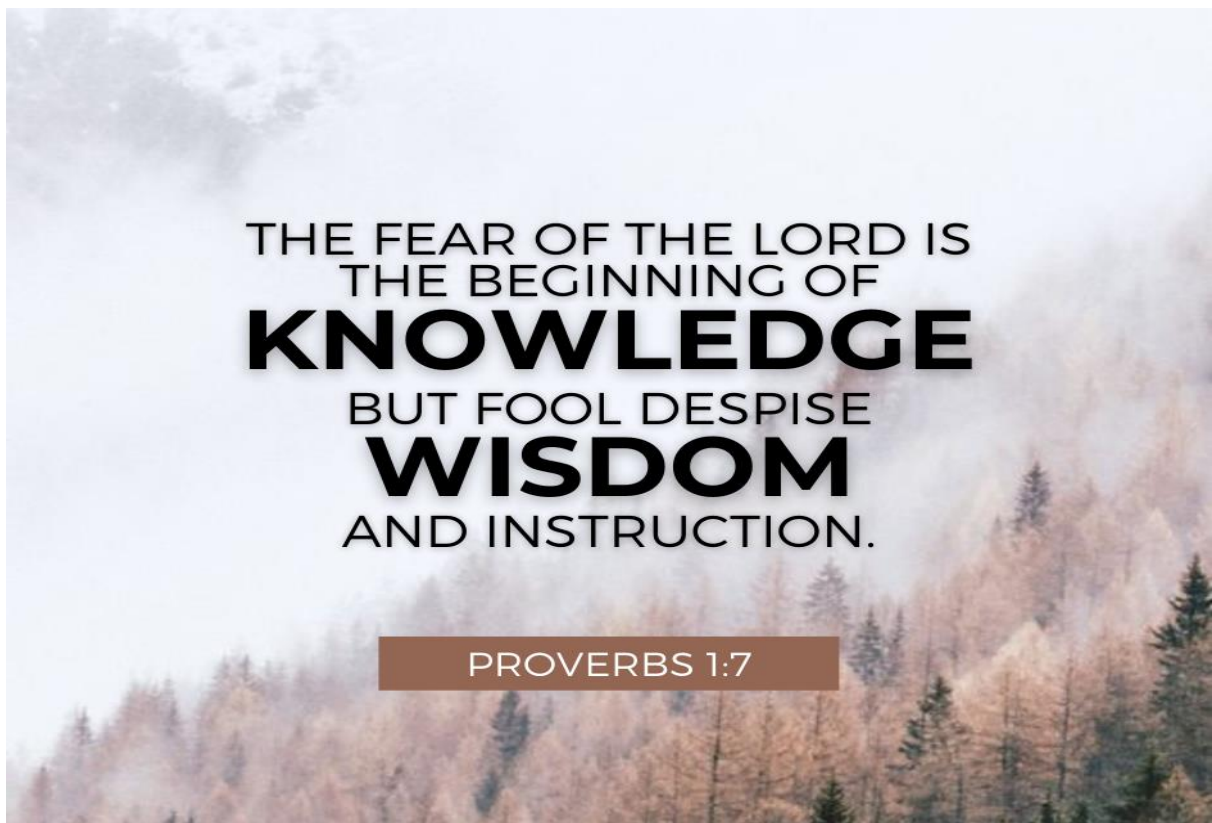
A. “The Fear of the Lord: (1) Is to Hate Evil, (2) The Beginning of Wisdom, and (3) Prolongeth Life.

B. Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey

C. ABC's of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Teaching Ministry of:
Pastor Carl Bennett
Corinth Christian Fellowship
May 1, 2024

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