

What is the Fear of the LORD?

August 26, 2012



Appreciative awe or devastating terror?

I. Some uses of fear:

A. The reaction to God's presence.

Ex. 23.27: I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee.

Cf. Shepherds at Christ's Birth, Lk.2; Isaiah when called, Is. 6.

B. Respecting God's Law/fear of breaking it.

Gen. 20.11: And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake. Cf. Rom. 3. 18

Lev. 19.14: Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.

C. A reason to put away fear of temporal trouble:

"Fear not:" (72 x)

Gen. 15.1: After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Luther's close of the Commandments:

What does God say of all these Commandments? He says thus: "I, the LORD thy God, am a jealous God visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands that love me and keep my Commandments."

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all that transgress these Commandments. Therefore we should fear his wrath and not act contrary to them. But he promises grace and every blessing to all that and keep his Commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in he and willingly do according to his Commandments.

Pr. 1.24 ff:

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; ²⁵But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: ²⁶I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; ²⁷When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. ²⁸Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: ²⁹For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: ³⁰They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. ³¹Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. ³²For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. ³³But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

The Christian fears God because of his _____ so long as he is a _____.

Cross/Christ fear Luke 22.44:

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

What did Christ fear of his experience of the cross? Rejection by God or man? Why?

Mt. 10.19ff:

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. ¹⁷But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; ¹⁸And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. ²⁰For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. ²¹And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. ²²And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. ²³But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. ²⁴The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? ²⁶Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. ²⁸And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

What does a Christian fear in this world? _____ What should he fear more? _____ Why?

Forward Looking:

Adult Bible Study, Fall through Spring; 2012 - 13 (Unless the Mayans were right)....

Too much on books of the Bible?

Doctrine: The office of the keys.... Doctrine and tradition of practice.....

Practical: Terms of the Liturgy...."What does this mean?"

Modern/Practical: How did women get the vote after 1970? Authority structures in the home/ in church.

Modern/systematic: Holy Spirit's Work: Lutheranism/Catholicism/Protestantism.

What do you think?