

“What Does it Mean to Fear the Lord?”

Proverbs 1:7; 9:10

“If I feared less, I would love more — both God and people. But it is just as true that if I feared more, I would love more — both God and people.” Jon Bloom

Even though the fear of the Lord is not natural, it can be taught (Psalm 34:11), and it is possible to walk in it through having a changed heart in Christ.

- To fear God is to live as if knowing God is the highest pursuit.
 - *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; **fools despise wisdom and instruction.**” (Proverbs 1:7)*
 - *“If you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.” (Proverbs 2:4-5)*
 - *“Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.” (Psalm 86:11)*
- To fear God is to live as if God is sovereign over all things.
 - *“Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.” (Psalm 33:8-9)*
 - *“Thus says the LORD: ‘Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool....All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: **he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word.**” (Isaiah 66:1-2)*
- To fear God is to live as if being far from God is the most dangerous/terrifying reality.
 - *“Blessed is the one who fears the LORD always, but whoever **hardens his heart will fall into calamity.**” (Proverbs 28:14)*
 - *“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, **for our God is a consuming fire.**” (Hebrews 12:28-29)*
 - *“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13b-14)*
- To fear God is to live as if it is a delight and privilege to be near to God.
 - *“There is no fear in love, **but perfect love casts out fear.** For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.” (1 John 4:18; cf. Hebrews 10:27)*
 - *“But as He who called you is holy, you also **be holy in all your conduct,** since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’ And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.**” (1 Peter 1:15-17)*
 - *“Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.” (Proverbs 23:17-18)*

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Please see the February Newsletter for more information about this collection.

★**NEW MEMBERS' CLASS:** If you are interested in becoming a Church Member, or have any questions about Church Membership, we are having a New Members' Class the next TWO Sundays, February 15th and February 22nd, at 9am. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up if you want to participate in this class. For any questions, please see Pastor Zach.

★**CHURCH GAME NIGHT:** Our Monthly Church Game Night is THIS Sunday, February 15th, at Andy's house (1062 National Road SE; Hebron), starting at 5pm. Please bring your favorite board game or card game to play, and a food item to share with everyone. EVERYONE is invited to join us for this great time of food and fellowship!

★**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, February 21st, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond location, at 7am. If you plan on attending, please let Pastor Zach know (740)618-0739.

★*For all other announcements, please see the February Newsletter!*