

# Bible Thoughts

VOLUME 19 # 21 05-24-2009

## “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”



The statement above is taken from Proverbs 1:7. The topic of the fear of the Lord is seldom discussed and willfully ignored by many. However, that does not change the fact of the importance of this topic as it is clearly revealed within the scriptures. It was Peter who said, “*In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*” (Acts 10:34-35) Paul teaches the seriousness of this topic when he states, “*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*” (Philippians 2:12) W.E. Vine includes the following as he defines fear as used in this text, “*reverential fear,” (1) of God , as a controlling motive of the life, in matters spiritual and moral, not a mere “fear” of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him. . .*” W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, Vine’s complete expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words [computer file], Logos Library System, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1996.

One of the qualities identified among the churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria included the fact that they were “*walking in the fear of the Lord.*” (Acts 9:31) The Gentiles who obeyed the gospel were reminded, “*Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.*” (Romans 11:20-22) Again, Paul instructs, “*Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*”

(2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:1)

The fear of God is taught. Remember the instruction given to the children of Israel, “*Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, ‘especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’*” (Deuteronomy 4:9-10) In Psalms 34:11 we read, “*Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.*” Do we take time to teach the fear of the Lord to others? Remember Paul’s warning, “*Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.” (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:9-11)*

The fear of the Lord will lead to a correct conduct. In Proverbs 14:16 we learn “*A wise man fears and departs from evil . . .” We also learn, “. . . and by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.” (Proverbs 16:6) An example of this principle is seen by the conduct of Joseph as he refused to lie with Potiphar’s wife, “*And it came to pass after these things that his master’s wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, ‘Lie with me.’ But he refused and said to his master’s wife, ‘Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’ So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, ‘Lie with me.’ But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.” (Genesis 39:7-12)**

The value of developing and maintaining the fear of the Lord gives one access to God’s mercy, “*And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.*” (Luke 1:50) Again we read, “*But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children, to such as keep His covenant, and to those who remember His commandments to do them.*” (Psalm 103:17-18) The individual who abides in the fear of the Lord shall have his or her needs met, “*Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.*” (Psalm 34:9) King Solomon, who was granted wisdom from God (1st Kings 3:11-14), and who had anything in this life that he desired (Ecclesiastes 2:10), shares this most important lesson concerning life, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

In closing, I call your attention to Psalm 112:1, “*Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments.*” Will we always delight in His commands and maintain the fear of the Lord as revealed in the scriptures?

\* \* \* Chuck Kozens

Church of Christ  
meeting at  
7303 West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Bridgeview, IL 60455

Schedule of Services  
Sunday  
Bible Study 9 am  
Worship 10 am  
Worship 6 pm

*Evangelist*  
Chuck Kozens  
(708) 599-0080

*Tuesday*  
Bible Study 7:30 pm

*Website:* [www.bridgeviewchurch.com](http://www.bridgeviewchurch.com)