

Fear of the Lord is Learning to Hate with Wisdom

Sunday, January 16, 2011

The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. Proverbs 8:13 (ESV)

12 A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, 13 winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, 14 with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; 15 therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing. 16 *There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. Proverbs 6:12-19 (ESV)*

Fear. We are still considering what it means to actually fear the Lord. Understanding His holiness is a beginning of this venture and then recognizing our sinfulness.

Last week we looked into
Proverbs 2:1-6 (ESV)

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;
3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,
4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,
5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

And one thing we should REMEMBER is that GOD DOES GIVE WISDOM when Christ is our treasure. The desire of our hearts.

So the question is really, what do we love? What do we cherish? Has God given you a heart to love Him or do you still love the world, no matter how spiritual the content of your affection, it is either on the world or on Christ.

Our lives as believers are BATTLES, not bored and tired routines.

Our lives as believers are Battles to REST in GRACE, FAITH and JOY. These do not come without pain and struggles.

Our lives as believers are BATTLES for the mind as we continually discern how to respond, react and relate to the world around us. If we had never a problem, we would never be able to live out our faith, worship God in truth, or exercise spiritual wisdom.

Do you LOVE CHRIST for who He really is? Your love for Him, your HEART for Him will produce a DESIRE and STRUGGLE for holiness. THE NEW BIRTH will continually and exponentially expand into all the reaches of your being and then outwardly into the realm of your life.

As we engage in this text today, we will see TWO areas of our lives that to be questioned here in order to see if we really FEAR the Lord and then in turn, truly have WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of God.

Every man must regard his own Heart and every man must test his own Life.

What we LOVE and how we LIVE will prove that which we "say" we have LEARNED. See you thought we were out of 1 John. Surprise, God's word is universally consistent.

If we truly KNOW GOD, we embrace this opportunity to WORSHIP and FEAR Him all the more. Are you here today to truly worship HIM? How can that be when you come

face to face with bitterness or hate in your heart for another brother or sister?
Are you here to worship Christ with true LOVE? How can that be if you find yourself feeling more worthy and wise than the person sitting next to you? Are you a follower of God's ways? If so, then your affection toward YOU will be less than the affection you have for your brother.

We lay down our lives, we lift up our Lord, we live out our lives by FAITH in the Son of God. He gives a new heart to His children. He gives a new mind and then we battle with the WORD in order to be people of worship.

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TRUE KNOWLEDGE can easily be defined as knowing the TRUE GOD. This knowledge is FEAR, good fear in that we respect the awesomeness of His nature and being. We tremble to know what He SHOULD DO and that He is able in all righteousness to destroy all sinners, including us.

Perfect love drives out fear as John says, so God is LOVE and therefore as He places His affection on His children, we can FEAR Him without shrinking back but coming bold before the throne of grace. The question is does your heart show that you are a child of God who has His affection? Do you live in a continual state of believing and repenting from Sin so that your life will be a reflection of the HOPE YOU PROFESS?

Today is a simple message: If you have knowledge and wisdom in Christ, then you LOVE what God loves, His people, His holiness, His Son, His glory, His word, Himself; and you hate what God hates.

Prov 8:13 - HATRED OF EVIL - God hates evil. All of it, no matter where it comes from. He hates it and what God hates He is worthy to destroy and right in doing so. When I say destroy, I don't mean cease to exist, but eternally destroy, continually punish. For a sin against a Holy, infinite and eternal God cannot be paid for by a sinner with a "restricted" punishment but an eternal, neverending one.

Let's couple this list in Prov 8:13 with the list in Prov 6 and see the recipe of what God hates:

HEART: Pride - God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. PRIDE is thinking that you have are able to do own your own. It is the commitment to be about what one wants and is an affection for one's own life. Pride considers itself FIRST without fail.

LIFE: Arrogance - This is pride taken to a level of treating others as inferior to one's own self because of one's own glorious view.

LIFE: The Way of Evil - This is when one's life becomes a pattern of living in the world.

HEART: Perverted Speech - Anything that does not edify and glorify Christ. We should use our mouths to praise. James talks about cursing and praise from the same mouth. I guess many people water down what perverted speech really is, well Jesus says that from the outflow of the HEART the MOUTH SPEAKS. You want to know what is IN a man, listen to his words.

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Haughty Eyes

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18 (ESV)

Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished. Proverbs 16:5 (ESV)

The Haughty person THINKS they know what is best. They are a fool and despise instruction. They are the most correct, the most wise and the most important person in the world to themselves.

Lying Tongue

Deceit and twisting of the truth

Murder

The taking of innocent life, in any way

Wicked Plans

The heart plans to engage in sin

Running to Evil

The reality of one's life is always running toward sin.

False Witness

This is why GOSSIP is a reason for discipline just like adultery. Because it is a mockery of the gospel. This is the way of the WORLD not the children of God.

Divisive Spirit

Division among the brethren is an act of demonic and satanic influence. When our flesh divides us, where is the gospel? Not that disagreements don't come, but the Gospel wins in the hearts of the children of God.

We cannot divide if we are truly His children and submitting to His word. Let us be diligent to hold fast and walk in the light of the cross.

Most of the time, all of these things come out of a heart that is selfish and proud.

These DESCRIPTIVES are the outline of a WORTHLESS person. One who has no purpose but to save up himself for destruction by God. His eyes, his mouth, his mind, his feet, his heart are all wicked and therefore worthless. Our purpose is to Glorify God as worshippers, so one who does not do these things is worthless and is near destruction.

Prov 6:12 A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, 13 winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, 14 with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; 15 therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing.

The CHILD OF GOD loves His righteousness and strives for holiness. We come every moment of our lives to the GRACE of God for strength and hope and we rest in the PROMISE of God while we FIGHT and BATTLE against Sin in HIS power!

On these things the wrath of God will come. REPENT and believe on Christ alone. He is your hope for God has promised:

By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,
and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.
(Proverbs 16:6 ESV)

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Proverbs 8:17
(ESV)

CHRIST is the HEART HEALER, Christ is the RIGHTEOUS GIVER