

Sermon 6: Living in Awe of God

Text: 1 Peter 1:17-21 “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: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God...”

Purpose: The purpose of this section is to emphasize that the Christian needs to live his life with a healthy, reverential awe of God.

Proposition: God wants you to have a healthy reverential awe of Him.

Interrogative: How can we have this healthy awe of God?

Truth 1: I need to understand what the scriptures mean by a fear of God:

- **The Fear of the Lord is a prominent theme in the Bible:**
 - **It is the conclusion of the Solomon's reflections in Ecclesiastes 12:13:** “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man...”
 - **It is the beginning of wisdom and understanding: Proverbs 9:10** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding...”
 - **It gives us a rich life that can escape the terrible pitfalls of undisciplined living: Proverbs 14:27** “The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death...”
 - **It gives satisfaction to those who have it: Proverbs 19:23** “The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied...”
- **The fear of the LORD can be illustrated by Psalm 4:4** “Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.”
 - **Awe:** A humbled sense of wonder at God's person, work, and ways.
 - **Sin not:** A humbled sense of the offense of sin and a diligent purpose to turn away from it.
 - **Commune with your heart:** A life guided by a reflective view of God as He has revealed Himself in His word.
 - **Selah:** He is a God who makes us pause and meditate on Him and enjoy communion in His presence.
 - **It is not the fear of an evil irrational person.**
 - **It is a sense of unworthiness in the presence of a God who is Holy and perfect.**
 - **It is a sense of awe and reverence in the presence of a God who is indescribable and incomparable.**
 - **It is a sense of gravity in the presence of a God whose authority is unlimited and whose justice is without partiality.**
 - **This sense of awe presses us to worship Him as our hearts are overwhelmed with His praises!**

Truth 2: I must stir up a healthy reverence for God, by meditating on specific aspects of His character and works:

- **Fact 1: God is just: 1:17** “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...”

Psalm 89:14-16 “Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted...”

- **God's justice is without respect of persons: Therefore, I am sobered by His justice!**

- Without respect of persons...
- According to every man's work...
- Pass the time of your sojourning...

- **Fact 2: God is merciful: 1:18-19** “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...”

Lamentations 3:18-26 “I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD: Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD...”

- **God's mercy was demonstrated in the payment He provided for my redemption: Therefore, I stand in awe of His mercy!**

- Not redeemed with corruptible things...
- Not by traditions received from your fathers...
- But with the precious blood of Christ...

- **Fact 3: God is caring: 1:20** “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...”

Psalm 103:11-14 “As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust...”

- **God's personal care for me was demonstrated in the way He worked to bring me to salvation: Therefore I am humbled by His personal care for my soul!**

- Foreordained before the foundation of the world...
- Manifest in these last times for you...

- **Fact 4: God is trustworthy: 1:21** “Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God...”

Hebrews 6:13-19 “When God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise...Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it

by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast...”

- **My position in Christ is eternal secured, because it is guaranteed by the promise of God who cannot lie: Therefore I stand in awe of the security that I have in Christ!**
 - Who by Him do believe in God...
 - That your faith and hope might be in God...

Truth 3: I must allow these truths to impact my daily life in practical ways:

- **The way I worship:** My worship must not be about me, but rather be purposeful and with a sense of reverence and awe!
- **The way I relate to other people:** My interpersonal relationships must be distinguished by a constant awareness of God’s presence and the reality that He will deal justly with me if I am unjust.
- **The way I cherish my walk with the Lord:** My personal walk with the Lord is the most significant relationship I enjoy in this world, and I must constantly see it as an overwhelmingly humbling privilege.
- **The way I view temptation:** I must be sobered by the reality of my fallen nature and be motivated by the need to walk in personal holiness.
- **The way I think about myself:** I must be humble in how I view myself before God and keep a humble spirit toward other people.