

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Text: Psalm 111:10

INTRO: Our subject this morning is the fear of the Lord. If my records are correct, I gave a message in 2004 on the fear of the Lord. That is ten years ago. As I have thought over this subject over the years, I realized that one of the reasons the Church has left true spirituality in the last number of decades is that we have lost the fear of God. The Church in North America is in a crisis condition today. There are a number of doctrines that I believe have crept into modern Christianity that have been, at least in part, the cause of the loss of the fear of God. Surely there are other things as well, but I believe that the present teaching of unconditional love; unconditional forgiveness, unconditional eternal security; unconditional grace and possibly unconditional election have been the cause of much of this loss of the fear of God. Lord willing, I want to do two messages on the fear of God and the importance of that subject, and then a message on the subjects I have just mentioned. In this message I am redoing the message on the fear of God I did some years ago, and then I want to add one message dealing with those passages that speak of the fear of the Lord. As important as the topics of the grace of God and the love of God, and the goodness of God are, they must be brought into balance with doctrines such as the fear of the Lord, God's justice and His holiness. And I fear we preachers have failed to do that for a good many years. I believe one of the missing elements in North American Christianity is a healthy fear of God.

Some time ago I was reading A.W. Tozer on the attributes of God. And in one place he talked about the areas the Church had won in the last number of years and then he spoke of the areas the Church had lost. He writes, "These losses I want to name before you. We have lost from our gospel Christianity almost altogether what people used to call religion fear. And along with our loss of religious fear came a corresponding flippancy and familiarity toward God that our fathers never knew." By religion fear he meant the fear of the Lord.

In the May Issue of the Midnight Call magazine was a message by Reinhold Fedorolf called *A Chosen Vessel of God*. And he said, "Democracy without the fear of God turns into anarchy and antichristianity." Well, what does Christianity without the fear of God or a diminishing of the fear of God bring? Well, such things as the seeker friendly church, which then leads to such things as the emergent church.

But someone will say, "Isn't the fear of God an OT concept? They lived under fear then, but now God loves us unconditional and He extends unconditional grace and unconditional love. Is the fear of God not as old fashioned as the OT?" Well, listen to Acts 9:31, which is given in the NT at the very beginning of the Church age. It says, "Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking **in the fear of the Lord** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied." The Church multiplied when it walked in the fear of God. Listen to Acts 13:16, "Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen." Then listen to the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:17, "Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."

Revelation 14:6-7, "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." Oh, no, the fear of God is not OT, and it is only old fashioned because we have failed to do it for so long.

So, for a text this morning I will use Psalm 111:10. I will not expound on this verse but simply define what the fear of the Lord is and then describe what it is. Our text says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Listen to what God said to Israel, "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?" In this list of five mighty imperatives, the fear of the Lord heads the list.

There is no difference between the Old and New Testaments with regard to the command to fear God. Now I want you to observe this verse carefully. What is the relationship between the first part of this verse and the second, "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?" To learn to fear God is for our own good. We suffer today in the church because we fail to fear God.

I believe a large part of the problem with North American Christianity, and it may extend beyond us, is that we have lost the fear of God. And, I ask, what is the cause for Christians losing the fear of God? For a long time I have had a series of messages in waiting which I had called, "The Subtle Undoing of North American Christianity." And as I thought of this over the years, I have come to the conclusion that one of the things that has undone North American Christianity is that we have lost our fear of God. So I have re-titled these message, "The Subtle Undoing of the Fear of God." That 'un' doing, I think has been done subtly by such teachings as unconditional love, unconditional forgiveness and unconditional eternal security, unconditional grace and so on. We have taught these doctrines so pervasively that we have come to see those teachings as inspired truth. And I believe at least to a good extent, we have lost the fear of God through those teachings.

I. THE FEAR OF THE LORD DEFINED

Well, it is important, as in all such subjects, to first define our terms. Our text has told us that the fear of the Lord is a good thing. God has instructed us to fear Him and He says it is for our own good. I have heard and read over and over again, that the fear of the Lord does not really mean fear. It means something like awe or reverence for the Lord. It is common to substitute awesomeness or reverence for the fear of the Lord. I have concluded that defining it like that takes almost all the bite out of the real meaning. We make it less shocking, and thereby less truthful and less powerful. To say that we should be afraid of God so militates against modern Christianity, and such teachings as unconditional love, that we redefine it to fit our view of love.

In the OT there are several Hebrew words for fear such as *yirah* and *pachad*. Though the element of awe may be in some of the uses of these words, fear, as we know it, certainly is there as well. Fear is that which causes one to tremble or shake. It is plain and simple fear (See Ex. 1:17). The Hebrew midwives were afraid to kill the male babies because they feared God. They knew if they killed little babies, in God's eyes they would be murderers and they would face the judgment of God.

The parallel word in the NT to *yirah* of the OT is *phobia*. It is used to translate both of the Hebrew words we mentioned. It comes from the word *phobeo* which means to

fear. Listen to this word in Philippians 2:12, "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..." It is the phobia that causes trembling. Now, if the fear of God speaks generally about awe, the NT writers had available to them a word that means just that. We find this word in Hebrews 5:7 and 12:28. But this is not the word used in the phrases, "the fear of the Lord" or "the fear of God".

Be the way, we get the English word *phobia* from this word *phobeo*. We get a number of other English words from this word such as *claustrophobia*. That is a fear of confined spaces. There is *acrophobia*, fear of high places; *aichinophobia*, fear of sharp objects; *ailurophobia*, fear of cats; *androphobia*, fear of men; *gynophobia*, fear of women; *hemophobia*, fear of blood etc... My dictionary listed 38 different phobias. Fear, what is fear? It is fear. Being afraid of something.

So the OT fear, the Gospel's fear and the NT fear are simply fear. When Peter said, "Fear God" he used the word *phobia*. This is simply fear, nothing but the common fear we all well know. It is this same word that is used when Paul says in Philippians 2:12, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Now fear comes in various sizes, but it is still fear. Let me tell you a story I have told you before. When I was growing, up new neighbors moved in. They were ranchers from the United States. One spring he was out in a swampy area on his farm and he met up with a grizzly bear. That was just a few miles from our place. In all our years there we never saw a grizzly. This grizzly came after him and there were mostly only willows and some small spruce trees in the swamp. So his only escape was to climb one of those spruce trees. He was able to get high enough to be out of reach of the grizzly but the tree was so small that the grizzly could almost shake him out of it. If it had not been for the bit of frost that was still in the swampy ground, the grizzly would have been able to push the tree over. That grizzly kept him up that tree until he could hardly hang on any more. He lived to tell the story. Several weeks later he would hold out his hand and it was still shaking. What is the fear of God? It is very simple. It is the fear, not awe, of God. It is fear! According to the Theological Wordbook of the OT, it is that which

causes one to shake or tremble. It is this kind of fear the Israeli mid-wives experienced.

One of the plainest passages which tells us what the fear of God is, is Matthew 10:28 (read). Are we to stand in awe before the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell, or are we to fear Him? Are we to stand there and say, "Wow! You can really do that? Awesome!" No, we are to fear Him. We are talking about the fear kind of fear. Why was the farmer afraid of the grizzly bear? Well, the bear had the power to kill him and would have given a chance. Why are we to fear God? Because some day we must stand before Him in judgment and He has both the power and the authority to cast us into hell!

One of our brothers shared his testimony here last Sunday. He spoke of his fear of hell before he got saved. For many years I pondered if the fear of hell is the proper motivation for salvation. As our brother shared his testimony with us, it suddenly dawned on me that a fear of hell is nothing but the fear of God. One does not need to fear hell if there is no God. Ask all our evolutionists about that. And then, we only need to fear God when we do wrong, not when we do right. And it is the judgment and the punishment that God can exact that ought to put the fear into us.

So let me seek to explain what is meant by the fear of the Lord. There are three different Greek words translated fear. One speaks of reverential fear or awe. That is *eulabia* (example Heb. 5:7). Then there is a cowardly fear, an intimidating fear. That is *delia*. We find this in 2 Timothy 1:7 which says, "For God has not given us the spirit of *fear*; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Then there is *phobia*, a fear that causes one to tremble, and to seek one's own well-being or that of others.

Let me illustrate this fear. Let us say I have been fishing and have caught and kept more fish than the fishing regulations of our province allow. And then I come to the shore and there is the fish cop. That puts fear into any fisherman possessing illegal fish. What motivates me to quickly want to hide the fish? It is the unconditional love of fish cop for his fellow countrymen, right? No. It is judgment. Maybe I am driving down the highway and I spot the police and I do not have my

seatbelt on. Do you know what motivates me to quickly put on my seatbelt? Is it is the unconditional love policemen have for fellow humans, right? No, it is fear! Real fear.

But, you may say, once a person is a Christian, and since our God is a loving God, surely love should motivate me. I should no longer be motivated by fear. Consider Matthew 10 where Jesus said, "And do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Now I ask you: Whom was Jesus speaking to, Christians or non-Christians? Well, if you study the context you will find He is talking to His disciples whom He has just appointed to evangelize their country. Why would He tell Christians to fear God? And why would He warn them about hell? The answer must be obvious. Let me tell you why the world does not fear God: it is because Christians do not fear Him!

It is simply amazing to see in Scripture how God's commands; our obedience, and the fear of God are related. The fear of God and righteousness for the Christian are very closely related. As a matter of fact, with the diminishing of the fear of God in the Church, comes a diminishing of righteousness in our land.

II. THE FEAR OF THE LORD DESCRIBED

Well, having defined the fear of the Lord, I want to take some time to describe what it means to fear the Lord. Our text says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." I could have chosen other such verses. Psalm 19:9 says the fear of the Lord is clean. Proverbs 1:7 says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 8:13 says the fear of the Lord is to hate evil. Proverbs 14:26 says there is strong confidence in the fear of the Lord. Verse 27 says the fear of the Lord is the fountain of life. And so we want to look further at this subject of the fear of the Lord.

Is it not simply amazing that our text does not say, "The love of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom?" Or, "The Grace of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom?" Or, "The mercy of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom?" But it is not so. It is the fear of the Lord, that starts us on the right path and keeps us going on the right path. The fear of the Lord and right living go hand in hand. You see, righteousness and the fear of the Lord go hand in hand.

In those passages I read we get some idea of why the fear of the Lord is so important. Our text declares it is the beginning of wisdom. There is no real wisdom until I learn to fear the Lord. I cannot live life right without wisdom. Many very intelligent people do not live right. Only when I fear God, do I begin to grow in wisdom. And what is wisdom? It is that which teaches us how to live right. When we make the right decisions, when we do the right thing in life's many and varied circumstances, then we are growing in wisdom. You see, when we do not do the right thing, no matter how much we know, then we are not wise. It is never wise to do wrong. But how to live right? Only wisdom can help us with that. That is the connection between part 1 of this verse and part 2. If we have become wise by the fear of the Lord, we will learn to do the commandments of God. We will learn that nothing pays like doing right. As long as I sin, I have not yet gained this bit of wisdom. Then I will lean on my own understanding. I will do my own thing. And I will have to find out through the tough knocks of life that it does not pay.

Listen to Proverbs 16:6 "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD [men] depart from evil." What causes men to quit living in sin? Preaching on love or grace or mercy? No, it is by the fear of the Lord that men depart from evil. On the flip side, what causes lawlessness to grow? Why do I allow myself to sin? Why is sin becoming bolder and bolder in our society? Because we are losing the fear of God. In a book of illustrations I have, it says that according to the Journal of Education, a teacher handed in her resignation. By the way, this was a long, long time ago. And here is what this teacher said, "In our public schools today the teachers are afraid of the principals, the principals are afraid of the superintendents, the superintendents are afraid of the board, the board members are afraid of the parents, the parents are afraid of the children, and the children are afraid of nobody." Why does sin grow? Paul quotes the answer from Psalm 36:1, "There is no fear of God before his eyes." You see, we can tell people all about the love of God, how He sent His Son to die on our behalf, and all of that will not move us like the fear of the Lord will.

For 18 years, 1931-1949, Prairie Bible Institute kept a record of what motivates men and women God-ward. Love motivated 6.46%, while fear motivated 64%. That is about 1

person motivated by love, while 10 were motivated by fear. Oh that we might learn to fear God! If we had a healthy fear of God, we would not lie. We would not cheat. We would not disobey the law of the land. We would not listen to bad music. We would not allow many things into our eyes. We would love our neighbors. We would read God's Word and love it. We would come under the sound of God's Word at every opportunity. We would seek to know God more and more and we would obey Him more and more. Oh, may we learn to fear God.

Now I want to show you something beautiful. Turn to Matthew 10:28 (read). From this verse we learn that there is only One whom we ought to fear and that is God. But we find in here what we are not to fear. We are not to fear those who can kill the body. That is man. But the fear of man is much more common than the fear of God. The fear of man, the Bible says, brings a snare. But the fear of God has all kinds of good products.

I am told that in Westminster Abbey, inscribed on a monument to Lord Lawrence are these words, "He feared man so little because he feared God so much." The Bible tells us over and over again to "fear not". Someone has said, "Courage is not the absence of fear, it is the mastery of it." 67 times the Bible instructs man to not fear. Fifty two of those occur in the OT and 15 in the NT. Here is the upshot of this: if we fear God, we need not fear any other outward circumstances. Now that is good news!

1600 years ago, just a few hundred years after the time of Christ there lived a man by name of John Chrysostom. His mother gave him the best of training and he later became a deacon. A certain bishop noticed his gift of speaking and appointed him a chief preacher in a leading church. Chrysostom became an uncompromising preacher and dealt thoroughly with sin in his preaching. This offended queen Eudoxia who succeeded in having him banished. Of this man LEM writes, "Stunned and indignant, the people of Constantinople were ready to create a disturbance because they could not bear the thought of banishment for their faithful preacher, John Chrysostom. Triumphantly he exclaimed to the agitated crown: 'What should I fear? Death? Christ is my life! Banishment? All the earth is the Lord's! The seizure of my worldly goods? I brought nothing into the world; what should I take out with me? I despise

the world's terrors, and mock at all its splendors." You see, the fear of God delivers from all other fears.

When one analyzes the "fear not" passages of the Bible it almost, if not always has to do with external pressures and difficulties. When we are told to fear, it has to do with God. I wonder, do you have some external pressure that causes you fear? May you hear Him say to you this morning the words He spoke to Abraham when Abraham could not have children. The Lord said, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceeding great reward." Do you have some external circumstance that causes you to fear? Consider Joshua. Already they had sought to take Ai once and they had been soundly defeated. And now he is to go up again. The first time they went with a small group without fear because of their confidence in defeating this smaller group of people. But now, having been soundly defeated, fear found its way into Joshua's heart. But the word of the Lord came to Joshua saying, "Do not be afraid." Over and over again, in the Bible we hear these words with regard to some troubling circumstance, "Fear not".

Now why should we not fear adverse circumstances in life, but rather fear God? Because adverse circumstances, murderers, whatever it may be, could at worst only end my earthly life. My body only is in danger. Something may end my physical life, but it can never touch my soul. And why should I fear God? Because with Him the well being of my soul is in danger, and that, only when I do wrong! Some day I must stand before Him and give account to Him alone. Someone might kill my body but he has no power to bring me to judgment before himself. As a matter of fact, he himself will stand before the judgment. I mentioned earlier that in Matthew 10:28 Jesus was not talking to unbelievers, but to His own disciples. And why were they to fear God? Because God is able, not only to destroy their bodies, but their soul as well, and that, in hell.

We might wonder why God does not do something terrible to us when we disobey. I remember distinctly yet in my own life how I was afraid to do wrong. Then when I became a teen-ager we got into smoking and drinking liquor, and I remember thinking, "But nothing bad is happening to me for this." That was nothing but the sheer mercy of God.

Now let me tell you about the mercy of God. If God exacted payment according to His justice the moment we sinned, none of us would ever get saved. We would all go to hell before we got a chance. But God's mercy is incredible. It is His mercy that allows time between wrong doing and justice being exacted. And if we, in that time of mercy repent of our ways, He sets us free from the judgment that we would have received. But if we do not amend our ways, some day we must all stand to be judged by Him.

An infidel in England stood in the square and spoke out against the existence of God in front of a live audience. "There is no God. I will prove it to you." He pulled out his pocket watch and said, "I will give God one moment to kill me and if He does not, you know He's not there. All right God, You have one minute to kill me from right now." The audience looked on in wonder how a man dared say such words. The seconds ticked by, and after 60 seconds he snapped his pocket watch shut and declared, "There, I have just proved to you that there is no God."

In the audience was a little church-going lad. He was devastated. He ran to his pastor's house as fast as he could and blurted out the whole story. The pastor looked at him with sympathy in his eyes and said, "And did the gentleman think that he could exhaust the patience of God in one minute?" This man had not proved there was no God, he had just proved His mercy!

One of our speakers showed us the You Tube video of those who sought to blaspheme the Holy Spirit. Well, because nothing happened, more and more did so as well. But have you noticed that the Bible does not say, "God will smite on the spot everyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit"? It says such a person never has forgiveness. None of those people on You Tube has died and come back and said, "There is nothing to what God says." But some day they must die and stand before God and give account and they will beg for forgiveness and He will say, "Depart from Me you cursed into everlasting fire." What will it be like on judgment day when they stand before God? There will be no belligerence or pride or arrogance in their voice, nor in their demeanor. They will fear God and that, without remedy.

I wonder, have you ever noticed how marvelously merciful the Lord is? God's mercy is what keeps Him from exacting

justice the moment we sin. He has the authority to require justice every time we sin at the very time we sin. And when He does not, and gives us time to amend our ways, we ought to repent and turn. Recently a policeman stopped me. After telling me how fast I had been going and what he could charge me with, he said, "Could we get you to slow down?" He had the authority to fine me but he wanted me to change my behavior. His mercy was meant to affect my behavior. So it is with God's mercy (Read Ps. 130:3-4?).

But let me tell you that there were times in history past when God did come down and justice was exacted immediately. It is from those instances that we might well learn to fear God. When Israel was wondering in the wilderness, at one point Miriam, Moses' sister and Aaron began to murmur against Moses. I suppose that Miriam was the instigator of this rebellion because God became angry with her (Num. 12:9) and she turned white with leprosy right there. Let me tell you the fear of God came on her and Aaron her brother.

In the time of the Exodus, a certain priest by name of Korah instigated a rebellion against Moses. And Moses said, "All right. We will meet tomorrow and we will see who the Lord says is right." They met the next day in the presence of the nation of Israel. And God said, "Warn the people to separate themselves from Korah and his followers." And Moses said to the people, "If these men die a natural death then you know that God has not sent me to lead you. But if the Lord does a new thing, and the ground opens up and swallows them up alive, then you will understand that they have rejected the Lord." No sooner were the words out of his mouth and the ground split apart under the feet of Korah and his followers and they and their families and their goods fell screaming into the open hole, and the ground closed back on them.

When Sodom and Gomorrah had used up the patience of God, in a few moments they, with all the people in them, turned to ash heaps. One day Elisha was returning to Bethel and some young people came along and made sport of him. They said, "Go up, you bald head, go up." You see, there was no fear of God in them. And Elisha spoke to God about it and two female bears came and mauled 42 young people.

Why does God not deal with wrong right when it happens without giving time? Well, who of us would make it? But

from time to time in history, God has spoken when wrong happened and from that we ought to learn to fear God. This is true in the NT, as well as in the Old. When the Church had just been born, and believers were being added to the Lord, God showed the Church that He was still the same God then as He was in the OT. People were making large sacrifices for the new church. They would sell their possessions and bring the money to the Apostles. Then Ananias and Saphira, his wife, also sold their possessions. But they agreed they would keep some of it for themselves but they would bring the rest to the Apostles and make it look as though they had given all. This would make them look as great as the others who had already done this. And so Ananias came and gave the money to the apostles, and the Lord revealed to Peter what was happening (read Acts 5:1-5). Ananias died right there. But that was not the end of this lesson for the new church. Saphira, Ananias' wife came in and she told the same lie and she died right there as well (read 6-11).

Why does God not do things like this today? Well, from time to time He still does, but the examples given in biblical history are all we need to learn the lessons necessary to fear God. I would go so far as to say that if we do not fear God, we do not really know Him, because when we truly know Him, we will fear Him. It is a sad fact that the fear of God is a foreign concept in the Church of today.

I wonder if we had a "Fear Factor" computer that could analyze us from 1-10, 10 being perfect fear of God and 0 meaning no fear of God, how would each of us come out of that test? If we had such a computer, could I ask you, would you let it analyze you? Let us say that down at number one were things like murder, and up at number ten were things like nasty thoughts, what number would my fear factor register? All of us here have enough fear of God not to kill someone so we all start out OK at number one. Maybe at number 6 or 7 are things like getting angry or using bad language. Oooo. Some of us don't have enough fear of God to control that. Starting at number number 4 and down are things that will keep us out of heaven, such things as listed in Galatians 5. Listed in between 4 and 0 meaning very little or no fear of God are things like adultery, fornication, uncleanness; lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy,

murders, drunkenness, revelries and such like. When we enter that range of fearlessness, then our passage says we cannot enter the kingdom of God.

I think that if we had a fear factor machine and it read 0-10, alongside it we could put a righteousness measurement and it would record that our righteousness is in proportion to our fear of the Lord.

CONCL: Well, let us conclude this morning. What is the fear of the Lord? It is fear of doing wrong because God will deal justly deal with all sin some day. And while we live in this day of grace, we have opportunity to come to the throne of mercy for grace to help in time of need. Do we, in this time we have here, flee sin? Do we seek first the kingdom of God? Do we seek what God wants us to seek or are we self seeking? All of these are indicators on how much we fear God.

How do I see God? Do I see God simply as a God of grace and unconditional love, or do I see Him as a God of justice, righteousness and holiness; a God to be feared? If I see Him as the lawgiver, the judge, and One who is just, it should bring me to a healthy fear of God. If we see God only as a God of grace and unconditional love, who loves no matter how we live; a God who overlooks if we repent or not, and who will save us regardless of how we live then it is not likely that we have a healthy fear of God.

Let us ask ourselves this morning, "Am I letting some sin go unchecked in my life?" If so, it is because I do not fear God. Do I need to straighten something out with someone and I do not do so because I cannot bring myself that low? It is because I do not fear God. Do I cheat my boss? It is because I do not fear God.

Is there some outward circumstance that has me afraid? Am I intimidated by others? Am I uncertain about the future and it causes me to be afraid? Do I not tell others what I need to tell them because of fear? Then I need to learn to fear God enough to overcome that.

Now let me just add that we do not get saved by living right. We get saved by grace through faith. We must repent of our sins and receive Christ as our personal Savior. He died for us that we might have eternal life. On the other hand, if we are saved, it ought to affect how we live, and that is where the fear of God comes in.

Just a little while ago I watched my mother take her last breaths, and I saw the moment her spirit departed. And there, once again I realized how very important how we live our lives is. I used for a text at the service we had here the text, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." May I remind each of us this morning that when we close our eyes in death, there is no more mercy. There is no more time to change things. It is over and we must stand before a holy, righteous and just judge. Nothing will be overlooked, nothing. May that put the fear of the Lord into our hearts.