**We Bless You Jesus Our God**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Joshua 24:14-16**

**Sunday Morning**

**May 17, 2020**

14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

**What does it mean to fear the Lord? Should we be terrified of Him, or does it mean something else?**

Saints, if we are lost and living in sin, we have a good reason to be afraid of God because we are not right with Him and are destined for judgment and condemnation.

But if we are His redeemed people, there is no reason to be terrified of Him. However, we have every reason to show Him reverence and honor Him.

Saints, for those of us who know Jesus Christ as our Savior, fearing God means to revere, honor, exalt, hold in high regard and esteem, worship, obey, acknowledge as worthy, and honor Him as our Creator and Judge.

**What does Scripture say about fearing the Lord?**

**Deuteronomy 13:4**

“You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.”

**Psalm 147:11**

“The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.”

Saints, His grace and blessings is when our attitude toward God is one of reverence and high esteem.

**Psalm 33:8**

“Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.”

Saints, however, Romans 3:18 reveals the world’s current attitude toward God:

**Romans 3:10-18**

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Saints, instead of honoring Him, they see the Lord as a problem. His commands are contrary to their desires, and His conviction of

their sin makes them uncomfortable.

Saints, although the world presently ignores or rejects God, one day every knee will bow to Christ, and every mouth will confess Him as Lord.

**Philippians 2:9-11**

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Those who don’t fear God now will miss heaven and find themselves being forced to bow to Christ as their judge.

**Why should believers fear God?**

**1.** **Fearing God Gives Knowledge**

**Proverbs 1:7**

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

Saints, many people are smart, well-educated, and knowledgeable on many subjects, yet they are totally ignorant about what matters most because they don’t know or fear God.

**2. It Makes Us Wise**

**Proverbs 9:10**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”

Saints, wisdom doesn’t come from education but from God. He’s the one who gives us insight regarding what to do, when to act, how to respond, what to believe, and what to reject. The only source of true wisdom is almighty God, and He’ll give it to us when we ask and are willing to surrender our lives to Him.

**3.** **It keeps Us from Evil**

**Proverbs 16:6**

“By the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil”

Saints, a deep reverence for God produces a desire for righteousness and a hatred of sin. We’ll be quick to repent and deal with any sin in our lives.

**4.** **It’s Healing to Our Body**

**Proverbs 3:7-8**

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

Saints, as believers, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit who indwells us, and we should treat them as such. When we hold

God in high esteem, we’ll seek to please Him by doing what’s right and abstaining from evil.

This doesn’t mean that living a lifestyle of obedience to God will guarantee us a long, healthy life, but it will keep us from the ailments that result from indulging in sinful practices.

**5.** **It Gives Confidence**

**Proverbs 14:26**

26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

Saints, boldness comes as a result of living in dependence upon God. As He lives His life in and through us, He produces godliness and the assurance of His continual presence and help in every situation we face.

**6.** **It’s a Fountain of Life**

**Proverbs 14:27**

“The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.”

Saints, when we reverence and exalt God, we’ll understand that He’s in control of our lives, watching over us and guiding our path. And as Christ’s life flows through us, His Spirit produces the attitudes He desires us to have—

**Galatians 5:22-23**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**7.** **God will Fulfill our Desire.**

**Psalm 145:19**

“He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him”

Saints, if we are following the Lord in obedience and living as He wants, He will give us the desire of our heart and hear our prayers.

However, this doesn’t guarantee we’ll receive everything we request. Fearing God means we will want what pleases Him. As we first delight in the Lord, He responds by giving us those desires that align with His will.

**Psalm 37:3-5**

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

**8.** **The fear of the Lord gives divine protection.**

**Psalm 34:7**

“The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them”

Saints, we should never underestimate the mighty power of God and His willingness to protect us. Psalm 91 speaks of His awesome protection for those who live in His shelter.

**Psalm 91:3-6**

3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

**9.** **It leads to Life**

**Proverbs 19:23**

“The fear of the Lord leads to life”

Saints, this verse isn’t speaking merely of our physical life but our spiritual life. Many people are looking for happiness, peace, and joy but are continually turning away from God—the only One who can provide these things.

The fear of the Lord brings every blessing imaginable because we’re honoring, obeying, and surrendering to Him.

**In Closing:**

**10.** **It Prolongs Life**

**Proverbs 10:27**

“The fear of the Lord prolongs life”

Saints, people who have lived 40 years fearing and obeying God have lived more life than a 70-year-old without Him. Furthermore,

none of us can be saved and receive eternal life without fearing the Lord and surrendering our lives to Him.

**1. How would you reconcile the fact that God is love, yet we are also commanded to fear Him?**

**2. How does the illustration of the parent/child relationship**

**help you understand this divine concept?**

**3. As you examine your own life, what would the fear of the Lord look like in practical terms? In other words, could anyone tell by how you live and what you do whether you fear God or not?**

**4. Do you tend to think that the fear of God is displayed more by what you avoid or what you do?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**