

Lesson 8

Essential Ingredients of the Fear of God

“Progress in personal godliness must be built upon an ever growing awareness of God’s holiness” Jerry Bridges

Review Last Lesson

~ Who God is should ultimately drive us to God and define our walk with God. (Ps 130:4; Job 1)

~ Godliness is ultimately the result of a biblical fear of God. (2 Cor 7:1; 1 Pet 1:17)

~ John Murray has said “The fear of God is the soul of godliness.” What does that mean?

- This fear compels, constrains, and drives one’s life toward godliness
- This fear is the motivating factor that moves a life to pursue godliness
- Just like out of the heart the mouth speaks so out of the fear of God man pursues godliness

~ To fear God biblically is to see God rightfully and respond with reverence and awe (Gen 28:17; Ex 3:1-6; 14:31)

~ A beginning definition of the fear of God is reverential _____ (Heb 12:28-29)

- A mixture of fear, veneration, wonder, and admiration that is all directed toward God (Ex 3:1-6; 14:31; 15:11; Dt 6:13-15; Ps 2:11; 79:7-9; 89:6-7; 119:120; Ecc 12:13; Lk 12:4-7; Acts 9:31; Phil 2:12-13; 2 Cor 5:11; 7:1; Eph 5:21; Col 3:22; 1 Pet 1:17; Rev 15:3-4)

~ The fear of the Lord begins with and flows out of God’s character. (Dt 28:58)

~ God’s character should drive our _____! (1 Pet 1:15-16)

Essential Ingredients of the Fear of God

~ Essential ingredients of the fear of God (Albert N. Martin “*The Forgotten Fear*”)

- Correct concepts of the _____ of God
~ Who God is!
 - God is majestic in Holiness (Rev 15:2-4; Isa 6:1-3)
 - God is incomprehensible in Immensity (Isa 40:12-26; 1 Kings 8:27)
 - God is unrivaled in Sovereignty (Ps 115:3; Acts 2:23, 4:23-31, 17:22-31)
- Pervasive sense of the _____ of God
~ That God is here!
 - God is personally Imminent (Isa 66:1-2)
 - God is intimately Omniscient (Psa 139:1-12)
 - God is pervasively Omnipresent (Jer 23:23-24)
 - *Consider some personal applications
(Ps 23:4; 2 Cor 6:16-7:1; Heb 12:18-29)
- Constraining awareness of our _____ to God
~ What He requires!
 - To Love Him Supremely (Mt 22:37-38)
 - To obey Him Implicitly (Jn 15:14; Acts 5:29)
 - To Trust Him Completely (Heb 11:6; Phil 2:12)

Home Work:

1. In this lesson we considered some essential ingredients to biblically fearing the Lord. One of the ingredients was living was a pervasive sense of the presence of God. What does the word “pervasive” mean and how does that help provoke reverential respect for God?

Read Ps 23:4 and 2 Cor 6:16-7:1 and explain how the pervasive sense of God presence is pictured in a positive light.

In Ps 23:4 what is the practical application because of God’s pervasive presence?

Read 2 Cor 6:16-7:1. What are the promises referred to in 2 Cor 7:1? (See 2 Cor 6:18) As you read these verses explain what is involved in the process of “bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”

2. Continuing to consider how the pervasive sense of God’s presence is so critical to a Biblical understanding of the fear of God. Read Ex 3:4-6 and explain what the response of Moses was once he realized he was in the presence of God.

Now, read Gen 39:6-9 and explain what protected Joseph from succumbing to the perpetual temptation of immorality.

Read Ex 32:1-6 and explain what was different from the sin of the people of Israel and purity of Joseph. Also, consider if there is any connection with 1 Cor 10:6-13.

3. It has rightly been said that progress in personal godliness must be built upon an ever growing awareness of God’s holiness. Study Isa 6:1-8. Then, define God’s holiness and summarize all the significant points this passage teaches us about the Lord, the seraphs, and the prophet Isaiah.

~ The Lord

~ The seraphs

~ The prophet Isaiah

Can you list out any other passages that teach or display God's holiness? What lessons have you learned from those passages?

Memory Verse: Proverbs 14:27