

9th of July 2017

## The fear of the Lord – Pt 2 – Fear of God motivates obedience.

In our previous study we established what it means to fear God – i.e. to depart from iniquity and to hate evil. In this study we establish that to fear God is to be afraid of His words, and to obey Him, hence why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. To fear the Lord is to be afraid of His words.

“He that feared the word of the Lord among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle flee into the houses” (Ex.9: 20). C.f. – “My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments” (Ps.119: 120).

We learn about God through His word, therefore it will not surprise us that when a person fears God they will fear His words, where He says – “The wicked shall be turned into hell” (Ps.9: 17).

### 2. The Fear of the Lord moves a person to obey Him.

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house” (Heb.11: 7).

If Noah had not feared the Lord, if he had not been afraid of God’s words he would not have built an ark. If David was not “afraid of the Lord that day” (2Sam.6: 9) he would have carried the ark into the city of David. But instead, fear moved David to carry the ark to “the house of Obed–edom the Gittite” (verse 10).

### 3. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever” (Ps.111: 10).

See also – Prov.9: 10

Additional comments on our points.

The gospel that the risen Lord gave to Paul whereby we must be saved today reveals the hidden wisdom of God (1Cor.2: 7), and when a person believes **that** gospel, they will repent and depart from evil. So if a person says they are a Christian and they refuse to depart from evil, then they do not fear the Lord and should examine themselves, “whether ye be in the faith” (2Cor.13: 5).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

The traditional churches today often do not include hell–fire in their messages – perhaps because their teachers, preachers and ministers do not believe that hell is a real place.

Question to think about.

But, can a man be saved today and therefore in the body of Christ, and believe **not** in hell–fire?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

No!

i) Because if there is no everlasting destruction in hell for the lost then there would be “no fear of God in their eyes” (Rom.3: 18) today. It is only when a lost person believes they are going to burn in hell when they die that they are afraid of God’s words, and moved to obey the Lord today and therefore, believe the gospel of Christ crucified, which is the hidden wisdom of God in a mystery.

ii) Because a saved person only perfects holiness in the fear of the Lord – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2Cor.7: 1). Therefore if there is no hell – there is no fear of God’s words, and no one is moved to obey the Lord – and receive, and believe the gospel which can save a man today. When you fear God you will be motivated to obey His words!