

2nd of July 2017

## The fear of the Lord – Pt 1 To fear God is to hate and depart from evil

Our previous topic was the gospel message for today – which when a man believes he is saved. But what else is a person to do, once they are saved? We will look at the need to fear God in this topic and then baptism in our next topic.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. God's children are to fear Him.

"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).

See also – Lev.19: 32, Deut 6:2, 10:12, 17:19, 31:12, Josh.4: 24, 1Sam.12: 14 & 2Kgs.17: 28

David spoke in this manner – that "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints" (Ps. 89: 7). And with all the references in the Old Testament of the need to fear God, and the comparison between law and grace, where "we are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom.6: 14) it is not surprising that many in the church today are not taught to fear God. But in the early church they walked in the fear of the Lord (Acts 9: 31). And in his letters to the Romans (Rom.3: 18), Ephesians (Eph.5: 21) and Colossians (Col.3: 22) Paul mentions the need to fear God.

### 2. To fear the Lord is to hate evil, pride, arrogance and the evil way.

"The fear of the Lord [is] to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (Prov.8: 13).

See also Prov.14:27.

### 3. To fear the Lord is to depart from iniquity.

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord [men] depart from evil" (Prov. 16: 6). See also – Prov.3: 7 & 14: 16.

There are numerous examples where a person is called to depart from evil, and is also required to do good (see Ps.34: 14 & 37: 27), or cleave to good (Rom.12: 9 – Paul teaches the churches that we are to "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good"). For those who name the name of Christ – "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2Tim.2: 19).

Additional comments on our points.

If you combine hating evil, and pride and arrogance and every evil way with being afraid of God you end up with an understanding of what it means to fear God – which is the same in the Old Testament and New Testament.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

During the New Zealand debates about the legality of sodomite marriages a Presbyterian minister wrote to the Parliament sub-committee and explained to them that God would endorse a sodomite marriage, regardless of the scriptures saying that the love between two sodomites is "vile affections" (Rom.1: 26), and their lying together as an abomination (Lev.18: 22).

Question to think about.

Why does a Christian need to fear the Lord and hate and depart from evil, when they will not suffer the wrath of God in hell when they die?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Because there are consequences for those who chose not to depart from or hate evil – where they will "receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons" (Col.3: 25). And we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2Cor.5: 10). Therefore, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ fear God and by hating and departing from every evil way.