

## THE FEAR OF THE LORD

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Lord's Day, July 7, 2024

### Introduction

- Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14
- Matthew 12:36, 37

We will one day give an account to God for:

- Every \_\_\_\_\_
- Everything that is \_\_\_\_\_
- Every careless \_\_\_\_\_

### I. The Fear of the Lord: What It Is

#### Yir'ah (Heb)

1. \_\_\_\_\_, terror
2. \_\_\_\_\_ or terrifying thing
3. fear (of God), \_\_\_\_\_, reverence, piety

A. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom and knowledge.

- Psalm 111:10
- Proverbs 1:7; 9:10

B. It is \_\_\_\_\_ in a moral or ethical sense.

- Ps. 19:9a

**Example:** The Hebrew midwives (see Exodus 1:15-17)

C. It is \_\_\_\_\_, which implies it can be \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ps. 34:11
- Prov. 2:1-5

**Beware:** Proverbs are not \_\_\_\_\_, but they are \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The Fear of the Lord: What It Does

A. It causes \_\_\_\_\_ of life, adding years to life.

- Prov. 9:10, 11; 10:27

**Example:** Obedient children (see Ephesians 6:2, 3).

B. It emboldens God's children and \_\_\_\_\_ us of His protection.

- Prov. 14:26

**Example:** Daniel's reverence for God despite the threat of death, and God's response by keeping him safe (see Dan. 6:10-11, 21-23).

C. It provides a constant \_\_\_\_\_ to being envious of sinners.

- Prov. 23:17

**Examples:**

1. Asaph's struggle with envying prosperous sinners and how it was resolved (see Ps. 73:1-3, 12-17, 21-26).
2. Reverend W. B. Stevens' hymn: "Farther Along" (vs. 1 & 2)

### III. Conclusion

A. Consequences for Refusing the Fear of the LORD

1. \_\_\_\_\_ company (Prov. 1:10-19; 4:14-17)
2. Calamity, distress, anguish, death and destruction (Prov. 1:24-32)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ immorality (Prov. 5:2-8)
4. Decline in health and wealth (Prov. 5:9, 10)
5. A life of painful and shameful \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 5:11-13)

B. More Benefits for Choosing the Fear of the LORD

1. Intimacy with God and knowledge of His \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps. 25:14)
2. Experience His everlasting, faithful love (Ps. 103:17)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ life with less stuff (Prov. 15:16)
4. Satisfying, peaceful sleep (Prov. 19:23)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ for sharing the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:8-11a)

### Discussion Questions

1. Which consequences have I experienced as a result of not fearing God?
2. Which benefits am I enjoying as a result of fearing God?
3. How does King Solomon's conclusion concerning life "under heaven" and his reason for such a conclusion (see Ecc. 12:13-14) differ from the world's view of what life is all about?