

The Fear of the Lord

Purifies Hearts & Minds



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Evening Sermon by Ray Reynolds (August 31, 2014)

Introduction: As we close out this series on the fear of the Lord, I want to remind you that fearing the Lord is good for us. It is healthy for our spiritual walk to be led by fear. It does so many things for us if we fear the Lord, and we have focused on those things over the past several weeks, but I hope the verses and illustrations help you in developing a better relationship with God. I pray that they help you purify your heart and mind because that is essential in our walk with God. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Life Is Better When We Fear The Lord

- A. A little bit of fear goes a long way.
Proverbs 15:16, Matthew 6:25-33, Philippians 4:19
- B. A little bit of pride goes the wrong way.
Exodus 9:30, Deuteronomy 7:19
- C. A little bit of faith leans on Yahweh.
I Corinthians 5:11, Philippians 2:12

II. The Fear of the Lord Purifies Our Heart

- A. When we fear the Lord, our heart seeks wisdom & knowledge.
- B. When we fear the Lord, our heart seeks holiness & maturity.
- C. When we fear the Lord, our heart seeks life & blessings.
- D. When we fear the Lord, our heart seeks safety & security.
- E. When we fear the Lord, our heart seeks to avoid unrighteousness & lawlessness.
- F. When we fear the Lord, our heart seeks righteousness & justice.

III. The Fear of the Lord Purifies Our Mind

- A. When we fear the Lord, our minds pursue wisdom, not folly (**Proverbs 1:7**).
- B. When we fear the Lord, our minds pursue purity, not perversity (**Proverbs 8:13**).
- C. When we fear the Lord, our minds pursue life, not death (**Proverbs 10:27**).
- D. When we fear the Lord, our minds pursue confidence, not timidity (**Proverbs 14:26-27**).
- E. When we fear the Lord, our minds pursue good, not evil (**Proverbs 16:6**).
- F. When we fear the Lord, our minds pursue joy, not misery (**Proverbs 19:23**).
- G. When we fear the Lord, our minds pursue humility, not pride (**Proverbs 22:4**).

Conclusion: As we wrap up this series, I want to challenge you to do at least three things to ensure you keep walking in the fear of the Lord: 1) *Study the Word of God*, 2) *Pray to God*, 3) *Walk with God*. God has blessed you with His Word, so read it. He has blessed you with the avenue of prayer, so use it. He has blessed you with a personal relationship, so grow in it. May God help us all to fear Him and keep His commandments (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**).