

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries

5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 18A

What it means to Fear the Lord

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It is helpful from time to time to put our lives in perspective. They are temporal. They are short. In duration each of us will come to its inevitable end; and when that time comes the only thing that will matter is if your soul is saved. If it is saved, you will have to give an account for what you did in your body while alive on planet Earth. (I Corinthians 3:13) What you are doing for Christ? What did you do for Christ last year? What are your plans for this year? Do they involve the Lord?

Goals are good, something to motivate you to keep you going. Philippians 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.* Set some resolutions... maybe...tone down your foul language, keep a budget, read your Bible, dedicate more time for prayer, find someone to witness too, make those resolutions spiritually related. So when that day of death comes (Hebrews 9:27) at least you will have something to give back to Jesus.

We will start in Proverbs so we can get a clear understanding of what it means to "fear the Lord." Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction...* Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.* The book of Proverbs speaks extensively of and emphasizes the importance of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. What we find in these two verses and many more is that knowledge, wisdom, and understanding all begin with fearing the Lord. Sadly most Christians and those who claim to fear the Lord, do not!!! They treat the Lord like an equal. (Numbers 23:19) Their answer is often "Oh God understands me, He has known my short comings since I was a child and He is OK with them." The Lord is not OK with your short comings if you are saved He has given you His Holy Spirit so that you can daily try to correct those sins in your life.

We are very obviously commanded in scripture to fear the Lord. Let us briefly introduce the topic.

- 1 Samuel 12:24... *Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.* Samuel was echoing the final words of Joshua.

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- Joshua 24:14... *Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth....*
- Proverbs 3:7... *Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*
- Ecclesiastes 12:13... *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

It did not say this is the plan of salvation (good thing); it said this is the whole duty of man/woman.

The scripture is abundantly clear that there are many blessings and benefits; when one heeds the commandment to fear the Lord Psalm 112:1 *Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.* If you would fear God, the Bible says it would fill your life with blessings. It would enhance your life in a positive way to fear God. And that when we fail to fear the Lord... refuse to fear the Lord... deny such a concept even exists. What we are doing is cutting ourselves off from blessings that God intends to give to us that would naturally come as a result of viewing Him properly. *Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD...*

- Ecclesiastes 8:12... *Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:*
- Psalm 34:9... *O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.* Do you know what the Bible just said? You are not going to miss out on anything *GOOD* by fearing God. You will not want and you will not lack by fearing the Lord.

Here are some of the things that the fear of the Lord will bring you:

- Knowledge – Proverbs 1:7
- Wisdom – Proverbs 9:10
- Strong confidence – Proverbs 14:26
- A fountain of life – Proverbs 14:27
- Prolonged days – Proverbs 10:27
- Satisfaction – Proverbs 19:23
- Riches and honour and life – Proverbs 22:4

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Does anything in that list sound like something you might like to have? All of these come as a result, the Bible says by fearing the Lord. The scripture is clear that we are to fear the Lord then we will reap blessings and benefits. If we choose not to fear the Lord we cut ourselves off from those blessings.

What does it mean to fear the Lord?

🔗 Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines the fear of the LORD as... he says, *In scripture, fear is used to express a filial or a slavish passion. In good men, the fear of God is a holy awe or reverence of God and his laws, which springs from a just view and real love of the divine character....* (Fearing God begins with understanding and appreciating who God is.) and *leading the subjects of it to hate and shun everything that can offend such a holy being, and inclining them to aim at perfect obedience.*

Our society today is so careful about offending people (you cannot say or do for fear you might offend someone) – **how about God?** Have you ever considered that HE might be offended... by something that is said... or something done? There are very few who are concerned with offending the Lord – but those who fear God make it their concern.

Noah Webster gave us a great definition, but let us see what the word of God says about the fear of the Lord. Psalm 33:8; ***Let all the earth fear the LORD:*** (Let's see what the holy Spirit is trying to tell us) look at the latter half of the verse.....***let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.***

Webster defines *Awe as fear, mingled with admiration or reverence, reverential fear, or dread inspired by something great or terrific.* Our problem many times is we think far too highly of ourselves leaving too little room for us to think highly of the Lord. But if we could take our eyes off ourselves and view Him in relation to who we are it would result in some awe which is defined as fear, dread, and reverence. Psalm 89:7 ***God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints....*** For the definition of what the Bible is trying to tell us, look to the second half of the verse....***and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.*** Most of us think of fear and love as mutually exclusive but they are not. Fearing God does not mean that we do not love God. In Ephesians 5 the Bible describes the marriage relationship as one that is supposed to be centered on love. A husband is supposed to love his wife as Christ loved the church. In Titus 2, the older women teach the younger

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women to love their husbands. Something you have to teach – because sometimes it does not come naturally once you get married, then to find out what he is really like. There is love affection, communion and a close relationship that is supposed to characterize the husband and wife. Do you know the Bible tells the wife in Ephesians chapter 5:33b *and the wife see that she reverence her husband*. It is an element of respect, submission, the acknowledgement of the place of authority that the husband is supposed to have in the relationship. Reverence does not dismiss love; love and reverence are to coexist in the marriage relationship. Love and reverence can both be a part of a proper relationship to the Lord. This is part of what the Bible means when it commands us to fear God having a respectful reverence towards Him.

Psalm 111:9. *He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name*. To fear God is to reverence God... the Bible says... *He sent redemption unto his people*: (That is Israel – but He sent me redemption too... Ephesians 1, Colossians 1 and Romans 4 and different places.) This Bible verse is not about a minister. It is about God; it is describing the Lord. There are many in Christian circles that use this term, *reverend* ...to address a pastor or a priest; and it is a name that the man does not deserve. It is ironic that people would give this term to a man who does not deserve it as they disrespect the Lord by disregarding what He said in His word about the lives we live, and the way we should conduct ourselves. Let us reverend the one who deserves to be revered. His name is to be held in high esteem. His name should never come out of your mouth unless we are talking to Him directly. God's name is not to be thrown out to express shock or amazement or just flippantly as in the case of OMG. It is tiring to hear people casually blaspheme the holy name of God. Irreverence like this should never come from a Christian's mouth.

Jeremiah 5:22-25. The Bible takes this a step further; it is not just reverencing God. There is another term we want to associate to the fear of the Lord from this passage. *Fear ye not me? saith the LORD*: (He had a question for the people of Judah; it is a relevant question; then He defines what He means.) *Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence....* (That is a step further than reverence... "Tremble God said, "Why

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did you not fear me? Why did you not tremble at my presence?)...continued
 Jeremiah 5:22-25 *...which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? 23 But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. 24 Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. 25 Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.*

In Jeremiah 5:22-25 we would like you to notice how this passage encompasses every aspect of God's power. Here is what those four verses include:

- ◇ They speak of God's presence.
- ◇ They speak of God's power as revealed in creation.
- ◇ They speak of God's judgment as the outcome and result of their failure to fear Him.
- ◇ They speak of His goodness and giving rain, providing crops.

What have we learned about God's presence, power, judgment, and goodness? By now we should have a full complete proper understanding of who God is and it should cause us to tremble. (verse 22)

Notes

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What it means to Fear the Lord

Name _____

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. What seven things come from fearing the Lord?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
2. What do we learn from Ephesians 5:33?
3. What is Solomon trying to tell us in Ecclesiastes?
4. What is the way of a fool when it comes to fearing the Lord?
5. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
6. What four points do we learn in Jeremiah 5?
 - a.
 - b.

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- c.
- d.
7. Where in the Bible does it tell us that we will give account for what we did while we were saved on planet Earth?*
8. Where does the Bible tell us it is a blessing to fear the Lord?*
9. Why would we fear the Lord?
10. Explain Philippians 3:14 while giving an explanation of what this lesson taught you. (Use the back of this page.)

True/false

- God will bless you if you fear Him.
- By fearing God you will gain knowledge.
- God will send you to Hell if you do not fear Him.



Scripture memorization

Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 34:9; Psalm 33:8

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?