



WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

Are you afraid to send your kids to school now? Are you afraid of what effect

the war in Kosovo will have on our country? Are you afraid the stock market may crash? It should be no surprise that there are many things today to be fearful of. Jesus spoke of the time of the end when *“Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”*

Luke 21:26

We shall be snatched away before these times come. But what should we do about fear now? What does Solomon say? He speaks of two objects of fear. Mostly, the object is as found in the statement *“**The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* Proverbs 1:7

He says we are to fear the Lord. This is the only things he tells us to fear. In contrast, he speaks from the Lord, *“Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, Because you despised all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your terror comes, When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord,”* Proverbs 1:24-29

He teaches that we can fear the Lord, or we can fear everything else. He teaches that the proper choice is to fear God. Jesus Himself said, *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

Matthew 6:31-34

Solomon tells us of many advantages to fearing the Lord,

THE FEAR OF THE LORD . . .

- † Is the beginning of knowledge. (1:7)
- † Is to hate evil, pride and arrogance. (8:13)
- † prolongs days, the years of the wicked will be shortened. (10:27)
- † Is strong confidence, a place of refuge. (14:16)
- † is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death. (14:27)
- † Leads to life, is to abide in satisfaction, to not be visited with evil (19:23).
- † Are riches and honor and life. (22:4)

He also advises us, *Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.* Proverbs 23:17-18

When we find we are only to fear the Lord, we need to be careful that we are not slack. *Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.*

Proverbs 13:16

As Christians we can trust the Lord with our problems but prudence says we need to do our part. We need to be careful in our financial planning. We need to be reasonably prepared for emergencies. Then, when we have done what is prudent, we must leave the rest to the Lord and not fear the future.

One thing we must do as Christians is to also be prudent in what we believe and what we reject as rumors and fallacies. Solomon says, *The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.* Proverbs 14:15

It has been a well known fact for some time now that you can not rely on getting the real truth about anything from our news media. We need to use wisdom and discernment in what we believe and reject.

Well, I am afraid that this is the end of my words for this week!

Wayne

