

## The Measure of Our Fear of God

Matthew 10:28, Proverbs 9:10, Proverbs 8:13, Proverbs 6:16-19, Isaiah 5:20, Malachi 3:16-17, Hebrews 11:7

### **Slide 1**

This morning, we continue our sermon series with today's message, *"The Measure of Our Fear of God."*

Last week we saw that in measuring our lives for eternity, God will measure things like our obedience and our love for Him.

But one of the most pivotal points of how God will measure our greatness for eternity is the depth of our love to fear Him.

The fear of the Lord is one of the great truths in God's Word and yet, sadly, in our generation the fear of God has become a lost concept.

The lawlessness and evil we see exploding in our society can be directly traced to our rejection of God and our lack of fear for Him.

Bible prophecy reveals it is the rejection of God's truth and our lack of fear for Him that will ultimately bring terrible judgment and usher in the reign of the antichrist.

That's exactly what's happening in the world today. In fact, to fear God is so important that Jesus told us in...

Matthew 10:28, *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."*

God's Word commands us to fear Him. It's not an option. This powerful truth should cause us to pause and examine ourselves to see if we truly do fear Him.

If you desire to live a godly life, and fulfill your God given purpose, then you must have a heart that fears God.

Proverbs 9:10, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

Psalms 128:1, *"Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him."*

## **Slide 2**

The Biblical truth to fear God is one of the most important truths in God's Word. Yet, it is the single most important ingredient missing in the church.

When God measures our life, He'll measure to see if we fear Him more than we fear men. He'll measure to see if we fear Him enough to obey Him and live for Him in a society that hates Him and loves evil.

The fear of God can be divided many ways, but there are two powerful concepts that stand out.

The fear of God is to recognize that God is the All-knowing, Almighty, All-powerful God of heaven and earth.

The fear of God is to recognize that He has the absolute power to do exactly as He says He will do, but there are many who don't believe that God has this kind of power.

The attitude in our society today is that people can live any way they want because God cannot and will not hold them accountable for their sinful living.

In other words, most people today have absolutely no fear of God. Bible prophecy tells us that in the last days many will fall away from the truth and have no fear of God.

In these last days there are two types of churches. There is the body of believers who love God and fears Him, and a false church that rejects God and doesn't fear Him.

Because the fear of God is missing in a lot of churches, and is most certainly missing in our society, it's no wonder that lawlessness abounds.

Picture in the theater of your mind, the children of Israel on the slopes of Mount Sinai with the summit of the mountain glowing fiery red while flashes of lightning pierce the sky by the awesome presence of God's glory.

The sound of heavenly trumpets are so loud the entire mountain shakes like an earthquake in the presence of His majesty and power.

The people of Israel trembled in great terror and fear, because they knew they were in the presence of a mighty God.

Exodus 19:16, *"On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled."*

That's what the church today has forgotten. That's what the church must return to.

When an Old Testament or New Testament Saint encountered the living God, they were truly filled with holy terror.

For example, Moses was so terrified at the burning bush that he hid his face. (Exodus 3:6) Ezekiel saw an appearance of the glorified Lord and fell on his face in great terror. (Ezekiel 1:28)

Daniel saw an appearance of the glorified Lord and fell on his face in terror. (Daniel 8:17) Isaiah saw the Lord and was terrified because he looked upon a Holy God. (Isaiah 6)

The Apostle John was one of Jesus' closest friends. He walked with Him and spent years of faithful service with Him.

Yet, when he encountered the resurrected, Lord of glory on the island of Patmos, John was so terrified he fell to the ground like a dead man. (Revelation 1)

If these godly men, who knew God, walked with God, and lived a godly life, were so filled with godly fear that it terrified them to the core of their soul, what will become of those who don't fear Himd.

What will become of them in the end times when they suddenly find themselves face to face with a holy and righteous God of might and majesty. That's why this truth is so vitally important.

The fear of God is to know that God is a God of majesty, glory, and power and that He has the full power and authority to judge us. This is what must never forget.

### **Slide 3**

The fear of God is to see sin and evil the same way God sees them. Proverbs 8:13a, *"To fear the Lord is to hate evil."*

Did you hear that? We're to hate evil. Not hate our neighbor, our taxes, our boss, but we're to hate evil. Proverbs 3:7b, *"Fear the Lord and shun evil."*

The best definition for *"Fear the Lord"* is: To love what God loves and hate what God hates.

For example, God loves righteousness. He loves truth. He loves faithfulness. He loves obedience.

But more importantly, He loves us and those who fear and honor Him with godly living. These are the things God loves.

What does God hate? The Bible clearly tells us that God hates sin and evil, which means we're to hate evil just as He does.

*Proverbs 6:16-19, "There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."*

There's no ignoring that each one of these things are happening in our society and across the world on a massive scale today.

These happenings are so big, that it's shocking to me that God hasn't already brought His terrifying judgment upon America and the world.

So, why hasn't He? Because He's giving us one last chance to repent, but that time is running out. Judgment is coming for those who don't fear God.

The sad truth is that the average American doesn't fear God at all, and that's a scary thought.

The Bible says when a nation rejects God's righteous truths, and doesn't fear Him, that nation will not only decline, but will be overrun with wickedness and evil.

That's exactly what's happening today, not only in America, but all over the world. In fact, Isaiah 5 describes the conditions of a society that fails to fear God and rejects His truths.

Isaiah 5:20-21, *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.”*

These words perfectly describe the spiritual condition of our society today.

The whole world has turned so far away from God, that we now call what God says is evil, as good, and what God says is good, as evil. That’s why evil and lawlessness is growing.

Another scary point we must understand is that when a society doesn’t fear God, nothing is sacred. Nothing! A society that doesn’t fear God, will not fear to commit evil, lawlessness, and violence.

Every day, 13 Christians worldwide are killed because of their faith, 12 churches or Christian buildings are attacked and 12 Christians are unjustly arrested or imprisoned, while another 5 are abducted.

If abortionist truly knew that on the other side of eternity, they’d meet God face to face and answer for their mass murder of children, they’d never do what they do.

If Hamas and those who hold to the false tenants of Islam knew the great terror of one day standing before a Jewish Carpenter and answering to Him for how they treated His chosen people, they wouldn’t dare touch a hair on the head of the Jewish people.

If people knew the terrifying price of persecuting and killing Christians because they love Jesus Christ, such as the killing of over 50,000 Christians in Nigeria, they wouldn’t dare harm a believer!

If Christians knew the severity of how they'll be held accountable for how they've treated God's people, Israel, and for how they treated His Holy Word, they wouldn't dare do the things they do.

All the evil and lawlessness you see in the world today is because the world doesn't fear God and doesn't believe God will hold them accountable.

It's the fear of God that keeps a nation from sinking into a moral sewer of immorality. It's the fear of God that holds back the hand of God's judgment.

When I see the immorality of our nation; when I see Christians living like the world, with no fear of God; when I see the apathic attitude of the body of Christ with no hunger for God, I tremble in godly fear because I know from God's Word that when a people no longer fears God, judgment will come.

I know you don't want to hear this, but it's the truth that we cannot overlook. This is why the church must lead the way to repentance and the fear of God.

#### **Slide 4**

Some may ask, what good is it to fear God? The most obvious reason is because God commands us to fear Him with respect, love, and devotion.

But there are other reasons, too. God promises to remember those who fear Him with special rewards.

Malachi 3:16-17a, *"Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. "On the day when I act," says the Lord Almighty, "they will be my treasured possession."*

God loves those who fear Him. He says a special book of remembrance will be written about those who fear Him.

When God measures our life and sees that we feared Him more than the world, He promises to reward us with great rewards and make us His *“treasured possession.”*

In God’s eyes, those who fear Him are more precious than the world’s most beautiful jewel. This is just one of the many great rewards God has reserved for those who fear Him.

Another reason why we should fear God is that it has the ability to spare our life.

Proverbs 14:27, *“The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.”*

There’s both a spiritual and physical application here. How can the fear of God turn us away from the snares of death and preserve our life?

The answer is, when we truly fear God, we’ll choose to obey God, and our obedience to God has the ability to spare our life from sin and destruction.

Hebrews 11:7, *“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.”*

It’s interesting that Jesus said in Matthew 24:37, *“as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the end of the age.”*



We are literally seeing that prophecy happen in our lifetime. In the days of Noah there was no fear of God, and we all know how that worked out.

God commanded Noah to build an ark on dry land because He was going to destroy the world with a flood.

Noah feared God, and because he knew God meant what He said, Noah immediately began building an ark.

For 120 years, while building the ark, Noah preached to the masses and got no results. No one believed him.

They didn't fear God, nor did they believe that God had the power to judge them and hold them accountable. That same attitude is rampant in our society today.

But that didn't stop Noah from fearing God and obeying Him. Noah feared God more than he feared people's opinions.

And, because Noah feared God and obeyed Him, he and his family were spared from the God's judgment. Again, the fear of God can spare your life.

## **Slide 5**

### Conclusion

In closing, how do we live a godly life that fears the Lord? Proverbs 9:10, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

Look at the word *"beginning"* in this passage. The fear of the Lord is the *"beginning,"* the starting point, for godly wisdom and godly knowledge.

To live a godly life in an ungodly world, we must have godly wisdom and godly knowledge, but you can't attain godly wisdom and knowledge without the fear of God. So, how do we do that?

First, we must choose to fear God. Proverbs 1:28-29, *"Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord."*

God won't force us to follow Him, or to fear Him. We must choose to walk in the fear of God. God will only reveal Himself to those who fear Him and obey Him.

If you desire this, then ask God to give you His heavenly wisdom of how to live a godly life that fears Him.

Second, study scriptures that teach you how to fear God. Day by day, begin living out those commands and promises in your daily life.

Show God you are serious about obeying His commands to live a godly life that fears Him.

Third, examine your heart. If you haven't lived in a way that fears God, then today, at this moment, you need to repent. Today, begin to live in the wisdom of fearing God.