

ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:11-18

If you have read this and come to the conclusion you do not know the “Fear of the Lord”, you can get on the right track. Ask God to give you a heart that truly knows the proper “Fear of the Lord”. You may have to admit, “Lord, I simply do not really fear You. I know You can bring me into the right heart position before you, so I ask You to give that to me. Bring me closer to You and be glorified in me. In Jesus name.”

Copyright 2008 Darrell Farkas
All quotations are from the King James Bible.
To find this on-line go to "www.basedintheword.org
entitled "Fear of the Lord Defined".

SNAPSHOT VIEW OF THE TYPES OF LIES THE “FEAR OF THE LORD” IS FACING

I carry a pocket-sized Bible by Zondervan. It is about as basic as you get. It has a few cross-reference verses in the center column and alternate renderings of the occasional word. In the following passage, “fear”, at the end of verse 15, has an alternate center column word. It says, “or reverence”.

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: 11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and **fear**: 1 Peter 3:10-15

It is important to see places where the EXACT same Greek word is used:

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for **fear**. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. Matthew 14:26,27

3 For rulers are not a **terror** to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: Romans 13:3

It can be seen that word doesn't mean “reverence”. When publishers put out their editions of the King James Bible, they can't change the text, but they try and take away from God's Word in the margins. They try to take away the true word from our hearts and substitute the alternatives they prefer. There will be a day of reckoning!

This passage, in 1 Peter, is a loose quote from Psalm 34:12-18. Peter didn't quote the preceding verse from that Psalm but it goes:

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Psalm 34:11

As you see, the passage is a basic lesson one would find in a primer on the “Fear of the Lord”. By this, we have a sure understand of the true meaning of the word translated “fear” in verse 15.

“Fear of the Lord” DEFINED We have believed a lie!

The “Fear of the Lord” is at the heart of scriptural conversion and walking with the Lord. Those who walk in the “Fear of the Lord” are accounted as belonging to God. Those who don't, as those appointed to eternal damnation. THIS IS SERIOUS! I want to focus primarily on the Biblical definition here.

I have heard the idea of the “Fear of the Lord” belittled and scorned by contemporary preachers. I have heard it redefined to mean simply the attitude of dignity and respect in addressing religious things. Maybe something akin to going dressed up to a wedding or standing respectfully when a parade float of veterans is pulled by.

From the Scofield Reference Bible I found the definition: The “fear of the Lord,” a phrase of O.T. piety, meaning reverential trust, with hatred of evil.

These concepts are devilish redefinitions of the Biblical “Fear of the Lord”. If you want to see true revival, it needs to start here. If this isn't seen, the revival of drawing close to God, ACCORDING TO HIS REQUIREMENTS, cannot happen!

ETERNAL SECURITY PLOY

The false teaching of “once saved, always saved” is the principal dart of Satan to destroy this fire of a powerful life with God. This teaching can effectively create a position that starts good, in that a person needs to repent and put faith in Christ or suffer the punishment of eternal hell. This truth is effectual towards bringing many to faith in Christ and initial repentance. After that first step though, the converts are often told they are now secure in being “once saved, always saved.” They go on in their newfound religion and the “Fear of the Lord” they encountered in that glimpse of eternal hell is now annihilated. I beg of you, consider this:

17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. 20 Well; because of

unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: 21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Romans 11:17-22

This passage is powerful and clear except to those who have bought into the lie of “once saved, always saved”. For those, it takes some fancy exegesis to change the meaning of Paul’s words.

Taking a look back at the dart of the devil, those who do make that initial conversion under the lie of “once saved, always saved” may continue diligently for God, but the vast majority take on a shallow, part of some club attitude, and some totally apostacize. Those who have received that deadly dart rarely stand before God, or deal with their brothers, in any form of fear and trembling of sinning against God or against His body.

EFFECT ON BASIS OF FELLOWSHIP

Anyone who clearly saw the “*Fear of the Lord*” would have to be appalled at denominational separation from brethren. They would be aghast at the thought of adding extra Biblical requirements for fellowship on the Lord’s day. That is no different to the practice of excommunication on the basis of something like someone’s stand of pre-tribulation rapture or post-tribulation rapture. I have actually seen a

2

church, that had on their large board on the street, their statement that those who attended that church held to certain beliefs, one of which was the pre-tribulation rapture.

If they don’t comply with some denominations extra Biblical tags, they are cast off! That is like the cutting off the hand and casting it from you to spare yourself in the day of judgment:

30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 5:30

We wouldn’t dream of doing such violence to ourselves unless we knew that hand contained a spreading leprosy that couldn’t be healed in any other way. We value ourselves too highly, but we flippantly do it every time we stand on denominational grounds and fail to gather with other Christians who gather on the ground of being part of Christ’s body with only Him as functioning head. The “*Fear of the Lord*” would demand we not deal with our brethren so flippantly on the issue of Christ’s body. We would stand aghast at the thought of just cutting off a hand and casting it from us. If we saw that single hand as part of Christ’s body and He is the head looking at us, the other hand, diligently taking a knife to cut off that other hand that offends our personal dogmas, we would stand terrified.

Consider this exhortation of Paul to the Ephesians:

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:21

This shows how the “*Fear of the Lord*” should impact our fellowship!

warning to heart. They became urgent to correct the matter. They became indignant over the iniquity that had been let slide. Note then we see that they “*feared*”. What did they fear and in what way did they fear? Was all of this because they thought Paul would come back and yell at them? I hardly think so. The context speaks clearly that they were in earnest to be right before God, not just man. It says their sorrow was “*after a godly sort*”. If their reaction was just in response to the fear of man, their sorrow could not be accounted as quite so godly. No, these Corinthians feared God, so did the right thing.

ITS IMPACT

The redefinition of this term has incredible long-reaching effects. For example: You turn on your TV to watch something like the Trinity Broadcasting Network and you hear one of the “Name It & Claim It” preachers. He or she outlines some of the basic tenets of belief, which might lead you to believe they are true Christians. After all, don’t they say something about confessing Christ as Lord? Don’t they say something about saying a prayer to “accept” Jesus into your life? Don’t they say something like “Praise you Jesus!” They certainly seem zealous enough and it sounds right, so you conclude they must be true Christians. What we have failed to look at though is that they have redefined the “*Fear of the Lord*”. I have witnessed these very preachers using God’s name in vain and using vile, vulgar illustrations and revelling in it. They talk like they are God’s live wire from heaven and mouth the basics that Christianity accepts as, “Well, they must

be one of us.” Their very speech and life demonstrate their words have no reality. They are alien to the understanding of the “*Fear of the Lord*”.

I propose a survey for you to conduct to see how far this redefinition has infected the church. Ask those who call themselves Christians, “What is your understanding of the meaning of the phrase, ‘*Fear of the Lord*?’” Upon discussion of this, you could ask further, “Is there any difference between the New Testament and the Old Testament on this term?” Think about how their answers would affect their whole Christian commitment, especially in reflection upon the scriptures we have been looking at.

What about the Revivals we would love to see happen again, like in days gone by? Why can’t pastors seem to get that kind of zealousness among their congregations? Where have they gone wrong? The answer lies in the “*Fear of the Lord*”. If we say important truths, such as the cross has to be at the center of the Christian life, but have redefined, in our hearts and head, the meaning of the “*Fear of the Lord*”, the foundation, for that truth of the cross to be a reality, won’t exist. It cannot exist in reality if the “*Fear of the Lord*” isn’t there.

REMEMBER

I cannot think of a better way to end this than with Peter’s conclusion of his last epistle. This acts as a very good overall definition of the term, “*Fear of the Lord*”:

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought

11

who will bring that swift judgment upon them with no mercy.

● *16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. 1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:16-4:3*

A few verses further, in Malachi, we find this passage expounding on how God takes note of those who fear Him. It is so comforting to read those words if you know you really do walk in the “Fear of the Lord”. It also expounds upon the final fate of the wicked. This passage previews Armageddon.

Taking a jump forward into the New Testament we continue with some important passages on this subject:

10

● *8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Matthew 3:8-12*

This passage continues with the thought we read about in Malachi. We see this cause for the “Fear of the Lord” is carried through to the New Testament. John the Baptist called for “fruits meet for repentance” and told us Jesus would come with the purifying judgment of fire.

● *11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. 2 Corinthians 7:11*

Wow! This passage forcefully outlines the active “Fear of the Lord”. We see how it caused those who heard Paul’s call, to deal with sin in their local church, to become urgent over his letter. They didn’t have an, “Oh, I’ll think about it.” attitude, as we see so often today. They took his

How do you think Christ would view the hand with the knife in this scenario? He would likely reverse the condemnation to remove the hand that has taken to the hacking of its own accord. He would do this to save the rest of His body! It is that killer hand that must be cast off to prevent the whole body from ending up under the sentence of being cast into hell.

AS MUCH A PART OF
THE NEW TESTAMENT
AS THE OLD

Another important thought before plunging into the definition is that the “Fear of the Lord” is just as much a part of true Christianity as it was under the Old Testament. It hasn’t changed or lessened in any way. We will be looking at many Old Testament verses that help to see the Biblical definition of this phrase. Since there are those who will dismiss this consideration, as soon as I quote from the Old Testament, I want to look at some verses from the New Testament first:

● *31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied. Acts 9:31*

People excitedly talk of a “Spirit filled Church”. Pay close attention to this passage in Acts. The “Fear of the Lord” goes hand in hand with a healthy “Spirit filled Church”. What is more, it is part of the “edification” and the “Fear of the Lord” was listed first. The one, in effect, is dependent on the other.

● *26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. Acts 13:26*

Pay close attention here. The word of salvation is sent to those who “feareth God”.

● *1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1*

Brethren, harken diligently to the implications of this verse! It is clearly to the saved Christians, and it calls for those, in that position of salvation, to live holy in the position of the “fear of God”. It shows the “Fear of the Lord” is essential to the Christian walk. It also implies the ability to end up as the branches talked about in Romans 11:17-21.

I know the “once saved, always saved” crowd excuses this with the “Fear of the Lord” being the consideration that God will bring you to an early death if you don’t live right, or you will suffer loss of rewards in heaven. From my observations though, it is a rare time when God actually kills a backslider (as in Acts 5:1-5), and I can tell you, being a street sweeper in the New Jerusalem is incomprehensibly better than being anywhere in the Lake of Fire.

● *12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12*

This parallels the other passages. Consider how the “work out your own salvation” is critically

3

tied to the “*fear and trembling*”. Do you get the message? The Christians are being told to continue in that salvation with the motivating power of “*fear and trembling*”. What consideration could possibly maintain “*fear and trembling*” in a “once saved, always saved” mentality? It’s awful hard to have a trembling attitude at the thought of not inheriting a higher rank in heaven.

- 22 *Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:* Colossians 3:22

This is an interesting twist. It relates an actual action to be motivated by the “*Fear of the Lord*”. In modern lingo we might say, “Employees, be faithful in your work, even when no one else sees you, because God always sees and He will call you to account.”

- 1 *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.* Hebrews 4:1

This clearly shows the ultimate motivation of that godly “*fear*”. It isn’t saying anything about lower rank in heaven. It is saying about not being in heaven!

- 30 *For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.* 31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

Hebrews 10:30,31

Clearly, just listen to the words in these verses. They plead with you to truly enter into that

life of walking in “*fear and trembling*” before the Lord. Getting to enter into glory sooner or having a lower rank just doesn’t match up with the definite tone of these verses.

- 28 *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:* 29 *For our God is a consuming fire.* Hebrews 12:28,29

Consuming fire? Doesn’t that make a clear statement of what kind of “*fear*” we are to be considering here.

Notice the “*have grace*”. The true “*Fear of the Lord*” is a gift of grace, but we must choose to have it and walk in it.

- 17 *And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:* 1 Peter 1:17

Look at these words carefully. “*Without respect of persons*” means we had better be careful to not soothe our fears with the false pacifier. The pacifier of, “once saved, always saved” is an important one. We falsely quell the “*Fear of the Lord*” with the thought, “I’ll be fine, I said THE PRAYER back at youth camp.” Remember, in James chapter 2, we are told true faith will be seen by the accompanying works. We are also told that all who love the Lord will keep His commandments:

3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

1 John 5:3

We are not saved by works, but the true faith will have manifestive works. The consideration of 1 Peter 1:17

stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. 11 *And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.* 12 *Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.* Haggai 1:9-12

To understand the “*Fear of the Lord*”, all it takes is a simple passage such as this. **In Haggai we see God smiting His own people** because of their self-centeredness. They were thinking of themselves first. God was going to be honored after they had their fill. They were not honoring God as God, thus were dishonoring Him. The people considered the words of the prophet and turned to “*Fear the Lord*”. Before that, they were not walking in the “*Fear of the Lord*”. We come to the Lord through the “*Fear the Lord*” and we continue to walk in the “*Fear the Lord*”.

- 6 *A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?* Malachi 1:6

These words of God to Israel show us some of what this “*fear*” is like. He compares it to the fear a servant would have of his master. One’s master

would be one’s owner. This is a slave relationship. Slaves didn’t contact a union for justice in the workplace. They had very little they could do. They had reason to fear their masters. They didn’t want their masters to start dealing harshly with them, they couldn’t just quit like an employee. If we found ourselves in the position of a slave to a master, we would definitely be able to comprehend what is meant by “*fear*”.

- 5 *My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.*

Malachi 2:5

After considering Malachi 1:6, it is good to see this next. The relationship of the servant to the master is not like that in human relationships. The fear is there, but in this special “*Fear of the Lord*”, there is life and peace. This is wonderful. With humans, this is not so, with God we find a special transcendence. The place of mercy and grace.

- 5 *And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.* Malachi 3:5

We see the basis of the “*Fear of the Lord*” is the principal fact that God will judge wickedness swiftly when the time of grace to repent is fulfilled. Those who “*Fear the Lord*” will walk in righteousness, those who don’t will follow their own lusts in disregard of the fear of the judge

such as that found in Scofield: “The ‘fear of the Lord,’ a phrase of O.T. piety, meaning reverential trust, with hatred of evil.”

Look back at the verses in Psalm 76. There is no way an honest answer could pass off the “Fear of the Lord” as simply a reverential trust with hatred of evil. I tell you, if your “Fear of the Lord” is nothing more than the Scofield definition, YOU DON’T HAVE THE FEAR OF THE LORD!

• 11 Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. Psalm 90:11

This verse ties the “fear” and God’s wrath together. They are reflexive. If we think, “God is laid back and gentle. He will only punish those like Hitler or something,” our “Fear of the Lord” will be at that same level. That being the case, we will not turn from personal sins we enjoy. We will not have the fear that accountability to a holy and righteous God should bring. On the other hand, if we know something of His holiness and righteousness, we will tremble at the thought of meeting such a mighty God and not being prepared.

• 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. 14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. 16 For the wind passeth over it, and

it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. 17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children; 18 To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Psalm 103:11-18

This is wonderful! We can really fear and tremble in the face of beholding the Almighty, but with brokenness that comes from that position, God is merciful. Verse 18 sums up what most contemporary Christians seem to just read right over, as if it wasn’t even there. Those in God’s mercy are those who do what verse 18 says. Those who say, “You can fear Him initially and you will always be granted God’s mercy, even if you don’t continue according to verse 18.” do not know the “Fear of the Lord”. The “Fear of the Lord” would cause a person to tremble at even such a suggestion. Not to mention, such a statement is calling the Psalmist a liar and God’s Word just plain wrong.

• 1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. Psalm 112:1

Couple this verse with the previous passage and we see that obeying God is not a “HORRIBLE” thing. It is also not a miserable thing. It is a foundation where blessing is found.

• 9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. 10 Therefore the heaven over you is

warns us to be careful that our faith does not die, with resultant lack of life changing fruit. Remember Jude’s important plea:

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 **Keep yourselves in the love of God,** looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jude 20,21

• 5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. Revelation 19:5

An interesting point to consider here is that those who “fear Him” are the small and great. If you might be thinking, “I will not walk in the fear of the Lord and just be one of the small in rank in heaven,” think again! Those who did not “fear Him” were simply not included at all.

We see the “Fear of the Lord” carries right through to the end of the Bible.

A beautiful way to end this quick New Testament overview before plunging into the definitions.

DEFINITIONS

As we saw from the simple definition found in Scofield’s Reference Bible, there are false definitions from sources we would think we could trust. Looking at the following verses, we will see a very clear picture of what the “Fear of the Lord” is really referring to.

• 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss

the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalm 2:10-12

From this Psalm, we see a glimpse of God dealing with the rulers of the nations. They are warned to serve God with fear. This fear is not like we would have of Hitler, if we had lived in France during his conquest. We could never “rejoice” with the trembling. The “Fear of the Lord” is something that comes from at least partially comprehending His awesome power. It is like looking over a nuclear missile and realizing the incredible power and potential contained in that simple, streamlined rocket. That is nothing compared to the might of God! Like I said though, God is certainly not like the conquerer found in a Hitler. God is holy, righteous and incredibly merciful. As the Psalm ended, “Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

• 3 When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. 4 For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right. 5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. 18 For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever. 19 Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight. 20 Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.

Psalm 9:3-5

→ 17-20

In the first three

verses, we see God's hand as a judge who has the power to do as He pleases. He rebukes, but it doesn't end there. We are told in verse 5 that God, "destroyed the wicked". It says they were totally annihilated!

From these first three verses, I want us to take a jump further through that same Psalm to even more pertinent information. The ultimate eternal destiny is revealed here. Their destruction wasn't just death in the flesh. It will be eternal judgment in the torments of hell. ALL nations that forget God will have that destiny. Now in verse 20 we see the "fear" that God will manifest in the hearts of the wicked. They may not fear yet, but when God arises in judgment to eternally punish the wicked, they will fear then.

● 1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? 2 For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart. 3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? 4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. 5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. 6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright. Psalm 11

This Psalm starts with the picture of the threat of the wicked to

the one who waits on God. We see this today as perversion after perversion is foisted upon society in state after state, and country after country in the forms of laws. These laws are their bow and arrows, ready to be shot into the heart of the godly. Moreover, attacks are furious upon the foundations of the godly to destroy their hope. Whether we talk about such blasphemies as the "DaVinci Code" or foundations being eroded through attacks upon the reliability of God's Word in the Bible, we see Satan hard at work.

The LORD will try His own, but the wicked will know His full fury of eternal fire and brimstone.

Now considering this Psalm in the consideration of the "Fear of the Lord", we find a picture of what is to come. Mercy to those who qualify for mercy and eternal wrath on those who qualify for eternal wrath. This Psalm helps us to understand what the "Fear of the Lord" is. We get the view of the One who has the power to do what He says!

● 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. Psalm 19:9

The "Fear of the Lord" is something in which there is no taint of evil. The fear of man does (Proverbs 29:25). The preachers who scorn the "Fear of the Lord" as being some dark, early religious stage of a more primitive Old Testament man, are preaching an evil that is based in false pride. It certainly knows nothing of the "Fear of the Lord". If you encounter such preachers, FLEE FROM THEM, FOR YOUR VERY SOUL'S SAKE!

We can glean that when all fails, in fighting through to victory, the "Fear of

the Lord" will not fail to carry us through! We also know the Lord is faithful in His judgment. He will do justly.

● 12 What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant. Psalm 25:12,14

These two verses show us that those who "Fear the Lord" are those God will shower His approval in granting revelations of His truth to. **This is an incredible promise!** God will open our understanding of His Word, **IF WE "Fear the Lord"**.

● 5 God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

6 The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him:

Psalm 52:5,6

These verses are real eye openers on the definition we are looking for. You will notice it isn't the wicked it talks about "fearing". The righteous don't have to be in some terror of being destroyed like the wicked. In fact, they will actually laugh at the wicked. If they were in terror of the same happening to them, they certainly wouldn't laugh. The "Fear of the Lord" isn't constant terror of being wiped out at any moment. Quite the contrary. To see the mighty wrath of God is a fearful thing, though one can be at peace of being under the shadow of God's wings.

● 3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. 4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word. 11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. 12 Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

Psalm 56:3,4,10-12

The last three are a re-rendering of what what said in the first two verses. It doesn't specifically mention the "Fear of the Lord" here, but it does provide enlightenment. In short, to walk in the "Fear of the Lord" is to trust what God has said and walk accordingly. "Thy vows" tells us the writer had committed himself to obey and follow God's word, which includes placing himself under the sentence of judgment to violate the vows. Entering into the "Fear of the Lord", the writer was able to be set free from the fear of man. The only way to not be held in the fear of man is to "Fear the Lord". We will fear one or the other.

● 6 At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep. 7 Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry? 8 Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared, and was still, 9 When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.

10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain. 11 Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared. 12 He shall cut off the spirit of princes: he is terrible to the kings of the earth.

Psalm 76:6-12

Now think back to the typical definition,