

Gospel Meeting - Austin Tx - Lesson 2 ---- DO YOU FEAR GOD? ---- Acts 10:24-35

Intro:

- A. A Question Is Raised Today In Christian's Minds – Should We Be AFRAID of THE GOD of THE OLD TESTAMENT?
 1. Since “GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR” ---- **2 Tim 1:7** (NKJV) ---- 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. - All Scripture References Are From: The New King James Version. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1982
 - a. The problem with this is that **2 Timothy 1:7** - the Greek Word is Strong's # 1167. δειλία *dēlia*, *dī-lee'-ah*; from 1169; timidity:— fear.
 - b. It is not the Greek or Hebrew words that are used in reference to a healthy “FEAR” of God.
 2. It is in my estimation the biggest problem we are facing today.
 - a. **MAN JUST DOES NOT “FEAR GOD”** - cf **Romans 3:10-18** (NKJV) ---- 10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” 13 “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; 14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “**There is no fear of God before their eyes.**”
 - (1) Strong's # 5401---- φόβος *phōbōs*, *fob'-os*; from a primary φέβομαι *phēboi* (to be put in fear); alarm, or fright:— be afraid, **Strong, James: The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words. electronic ed. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996.**
 - b. During the early 1800's in this country it was a period known for its religious revival - also known as the “scourched earth period” - when HELL FIRE AND BRIMSTONE SERMONS rained down on the minds of men.
 - (1) Let a young man to hide under his bed in fear - but then to create the “church of the Latter Day Saints”
 - c. For to long we have modified and softened the tone of the preaching - to the point brethren I am persuaded that we just do not really “FEAR” GOD as we should.
 - (1) We have all drunk from the cool aid of the FREE THINKERS – and are intoxicated in the absence of “FEAR”
 - (2) Our actions in this life really determine the reality of our FEAR!
- B. **MEANING OF THE WORD “FEAR.”**
 1. In the O.T., there are two basic words translated "fear."
 - a. Meaning: "Terror," "dread," "that which causes one to fear."
 - b. "Reverence;" "Respect for God because of who He is, His character, etc."
 2. In the N.T., one word translated fear: Yet, two distinct meanings which are determined by the context. (Same meaning as O.T. words.)
 - a. Other distinctive terms: "delia" translated "fearfulness," "timidity."
 - b. "Eulabeia" translated "reverence," "holy fear, mingled with love."
- C. Since the Christian is NO LONGER under the OLD TESTAMENT – are we also FREED from the TERROR {FEAR} of GOD?
 1. In many ways it is imperative that WE come to understand what this single WORD MEANS.- The “FEAR” of GOD
 2. It is my aim to awaken our minds to a healthy respect of this biblical concept.
- D. Important to know what it means to fear God.
 1. **Matthew 10:28** ---- Christ uses a Greek Word that is important in our UNDERSTANDING
 - a. **Matthew 10:28** (NKJV) ---- 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2. Note Peter's conversation at the house of Cornelius. - **Acts 10:34-35** (NKJV) ---- 34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.
 - a. This was after he was told why Cornelius had sent for him; After he was made to realize the impartial nature of God.
 - b. Identifies two characteristics which God has always required of men.
 - (1) Always accepts those who fear Him, work His righteousness.
3. It is the Greek Strongs # 5399. φοβέω phōēō, fob-eh'-o; from 5401; to frighten,) to be alarmed; by to be in awe of, i.e. revere:— be (Strong, James: The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words. electronic ed. Nashville : Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996,
 - (1) We are talking about a PHOBIA here folks this is not a RESPECT
 - (a) We have all types of Phobia's - acrophobia; claustrophobia
 - i) **phobia** ---- n Psychiatry. an abnormal intense and irrational fear of a given situation, organism, or object. [C19: from Greek phobos fear]
 - ii) **phobia** n combining form indicating an extreme abnormal fear of or aversion to: acrophobia; claustrophobia [via Latin from Greek, from phobos fear] -phobic adj combining form
 - iii) **phobic** - 1 of, relating to, or arising from a phobia. 2 a person suffering from a phobia.
- E. AS we turn our attention to the subject more in depth – let us note how this is used in the OLD TESTAMENT:
 1. WE WILL EXAMINE SOME OF THE SCRIPTURES OF OLD.
 2. EXAMINE EXAMPLES OF THIS IN PRACTICE.
 3. And Then Make APPLICATION:
 - a. HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE REALLY FEAR GOD?
 - b. Some test to determine if we fear Him.

II. **SCRIPTURES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WITH REGARDS TO THE FEAR of GOD**

- A. "Eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him" (**Psa. 33:18**).
 - a. “Whole duty of man, Fear God and Keep His Commandments” - (**Ecc. 12:13**).
 - (1) Firstly it must be noted that the scriptures here do not say ---- The Whole duty of man is to RESPECT God and Keep His Commandments” - it says “FEAR” - there are other Hebrew and Greek words that mean that.
 2. The Words used here for “FEAR” is the HEBREW word - **Strong's # 3372**. יָרָא yârê', yaw-ray'; a root; to *fear*; to *revere*; to *frighten*:— affright, be (make) afraid, dread (-ful), (put in) fear (-ful, -fully, -ing), (be had in) reverence (-end),
 - (1) As you examine the book of Eccl. You will note that this statement does not occur after all has been lived under the Sun, and seen the vanity of all things - but rather it is an inherent theme from chapter 3 of the mindset of Solomon. “FEAR” of GOD is key to our life choices under the SUN!
 - (a) cf. **Eccl. 3:14; 5:7 ; 8:12-13** - where did he learn all this?
 - i) Solomon was raised by a godly father “David” - who meditated on God's Word
 - ii) This is what Moses taught way before the children of Israel had crossed into the promised land to enjoy the bountiful blessings of God's Hand - cf **Deut 10:12-13**
 - b. When God revealed Himself to people: BRETHREN people were afraid - DEATHLY AFRAID!
 - (1) **Gen 3** - Adam and Eve ---- “I was afraid” - this is not reverence - he is scared!
 - (2) **Gen 15:1** - God had to tell Abram - “BE NOT AFRAID” WHY?
 - (3) **Gen 26:24** — to Isaac — “FEAR NOT...”
 - (4) **Gen 28** - Jacob

- (5) **Ex 3:6** - Moses hid his face for he was afraid
- (6) **Isa 6:1-8** - "WOE IS ME FOR I AM LOST...."
- (7) **Ezek 1:28** - falls down on his face when he realizes the presence of the Lord
- (8) **Matt 28:1-4** ---- they became like dead men? WHY?
 - (a) They are looking at GOD!
- c. FOLKS when God appeared to people - they are afraid and they fall down!
 - (1) Brethren - I believe this is a conscious reaction of being in the presence of God - that is why every knee is going to bow on that last day!
 - (2) cf **Ex 19:** — cf **Ex 20:18**
 - (a) The children of the folks of **Ex 19 & 20** ---- **Deut 4:9-10; 5:5, 22-29**
- 3. God wants folks to be afraid of HIM - 4 times in the first 3 chapters of Deut God says do not be afraid of those whose land you are going in - but from chapter 4 to the end of the book - He says Fear ME!
- 4. In **Psa 33:6-8 ; Psa 66:1-16** - How Awesome are your works "yaw ray"
- B. **WHICH FEAR DOES PETER SPEAK OF AS NECESSARY TO PLEASING GOD?**
 - 1. "Terror" is rejected by most as an unworthy motivating force.
 - a. Appeal is made to **I Jn. 4:18**; "Can't love what we fear." This is a misapplication of the verse.
 - (1) **1 John 4:18** (NKJV) ---- 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
 - 2. Religious groups reject idea of eternal punishment: Jehovah's Witnesses, majority of denominational teachers, even some members of the church who say we should not appeal to such a motivating force.
 - a. Fear of punishment has a weakness. Causes one to draw back.
 - (1) However, if desire for something is stronger than the fear of punishment, will seek desire in spite of fear. (There are those who will risk capital punishment for some desire. This doesn't mean capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime. The vast majority will not take such a risk.)
 - b. Reason for the severity of the punishment of sin is to cause man to stay away from it.
- C. Lord used fear as a motive for obedience (**Mt. 10:28; Mk. 9:42-48**)
 - 1. Apostles used it (**2 Cor. 5:10-11; Eph. 5:6; Heb. 10:27,31; 12:29 cf Romans 13**)
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:10-11** (NKJV) ---- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.
 - b. **Ephesians 5:6** (NKJV) ---- 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
 - c. **Hebrews 10:27** (NKJV) ---- 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.
 - d. **Hebrews 10:31** (NKJV) ---- 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 - e. **Hebrews 12:29** (NKJV) ---- 29 For our God is a consuming fire.
 - (1) FEAR is an Element that causes obedience ---- that is why Parents are to discipline their children.
 - 2. Terror alone does not cause one to obey (**Jas. 2:19** NKJV) - 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ---- But, legitimate when coupled with other motives.
 - a. Certainly prompts one to obey (see **Jonah 3**).
 - 3. Today: Little interest in salvation if no fear of being lost. One cannot appreciate the love of God and His grace until see the danger one faces.
- D. Reverence: "Fear mingled with love."

1. Not only a severe God (**Rom. 11:22**), but a God of love, goodness (**Rom. 2:4**).
 - a. **Romans 11:22** (NKJV) ---- 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.
 - (1) **Romans 2:4** (NKJV) ---- 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
 - b. To cause man to love Him, give Him the reverence due, lest he displease Him (see **I Jn. 4:10-11**).
2. **Deut 10:12** ---- GOD DEMANDS that we do what He says
 - a. It is always for our benefit - cf **6:2** ; why do we do this cf **vrs 24**

III. HOW DO WE DETERMINE IF ONE FEARS GOD?

- A. If one fears God, he will hate those things which God hates (**Prov. 8:13** NKJV) ---- 13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.
 1. God has revealed those things which He hates (see **Prov. 6:7-16; Zech. 8:16-17; Mal. 2:16; Amos 5:21; Rev. 2:15**, etc.).
 - a. **Proverbs 6:7-16** (NKJV) ---- 7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, 8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep— 11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man. 12 A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth; 13 He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; 14 Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. 15 Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy. 16 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
 - b. **Zechariah 8:16-17** (NKJV) ---- 16 These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace; 17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; And do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' Says the Lord."
 - c. **Malachi 2:16** (NKJV) ---- 16 "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously."
 - d. **Amos 5:21** (NKJV) ---- 21 "I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.
 - e. **Revelation 2:15** (NKJV) ---- 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.
 2. There can be no compromise: Attitude must be fixed; Whether moral corruption, social injustice, religious error. If Fear God, we must have the same attitude which He has.
 - a. Self-deceived if do not.
 - b. When you are tempted - in the back seat of a car; or when your dress is no different to the world ; or your mouth throws about OMG ---- you must realize that you do not fear GOD!
- B. If one fears God, he will depart from evil (**Prov. 16:6** NKJV) ---- 6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.
 1. Fear of God is to have a restraining influence on life. Where no fear is found there is no restraint (see **Rom. 3:10-18**).
 - a. **Romans 3:10-18** (NKJV) ---- 10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There

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is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” 13 “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; 14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- b. Is there any wonder that there is an increase in wickedness in our land today when young people are taught that God does not exist?
2. Reverence: Knowing the nature of sin, dread of offending our Holy Father restrains.
 - a. His name is to be hallowed. Must not grieve Him (**Eph. 4:30** NKJV) ---- 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- C. If one fears God, he will obey His word (**Ecc. 12:13**).
 1. Reverence for God requires submission to His authority (see **Mal. 1:6** NKJV) ---- 6 “A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’
 2. John shows the meaning of "love" is that of respecting the position of authority which belongs to the Lord (**I Jn. 5:3** NKJV) ---- 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
 3. This is the love which gives confidence (**I Jn. 4:17**); When obedient, the fear of punishment is gone (**I Jn. 4:18**).
 - a. **1 John 4:17-18** (NKJV) ---- 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

IV. **FEAR & REVERENCE MUST BE FOUND IN THE LIFE OF THE CHILD OF GOD.**

- A. Time of sojourn spent in fear (**I Pet. 1:17** NKJV) ---- 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;
 1. Reason: To be judged impartially.
 2. Time of sojourn is short.
- B. To work out our salvation with fear, trembling (**Phil. 2:12** NKJV) ---- 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you 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;). There must be anxious concern lest we fail to enter the promised rest (**Heb. 4:1** NKJV) ---- 1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.
- C. God to be approached in reverence, godly fear (**Heb. 12:28; 2 Cor. 7:1**).
 1. **Hebrews 12:28** (NKJV) ---- 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
 - a. **2 Corinthians 7:1** (NKJV) ----- 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 2. Reverence: "Caution, carefulness." In this sense, Christ feared **Hebrews 5:7** (NKJV) ----7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,
 - a. Manner in which we must approach God (see **Ecc. 5:1**).
 - (1) **Ecclesiastes 5:1** (NKJV) ---- 1 Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.

3. Godly Fear: "Modesty." Life well ordered: Expressed in outward conduct.

V. Concl.

- A. Brethren - here is something that I want you to consider - we are attracted to the things that causes us fear ---- what scares us attracts us!
 - 1. Moses was afraid of God - but he asked to see the Glory of God on the mountain!
- B. Do you fear God? - On the day of Judgment as we see the face of God for the first time - will it be one of smiling welcoming us home? Or the face of a Judge with a frown upon his face wondering why you did not fear Him?
 - 1. The choice of the face you see - is yours
- C. There is Every reason that you should have "terror" if you have not been obedient to His will.
 - 1. Stand to lose all: Eternal ruin, punishment.
- D. Do you take your responsibilities as a Christian as seriously as you should: "Work out salvation with fear and trembling?" Do you show proper reverence in life as well as worship?
- E. We can have confidence in the Lord. He gives assurance to those in Christ: Those who "fear God, work righteousness" (**Acts 10:35**).