

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: *Fear God and keep His commandments*, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

Quote: The fear of God is an attitude of reverent awe and adoration whereby the child of God guards and guides his thoughts, words and deeds by the Word of God for the glory of God.

After making some sinful choices, King Solomon wisely summarized life in the verses that you just read. To fear or revere God is to “regard Him with awe mingled with respect and affection.”¹ True fear of God results in obedience to His Word in light of a coming judgment that is certain, personal and permanent. There will be no opportunities to “fix things” or to “make things right” once a person takes his last breath. Life has no “instant replays!”

Job was the most righteous man of his day. He said, “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.”² David, whom God called a man after His own heart,³ said, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.”⁴

True fear of God changes a person. When the likeness of God passed before Moses on Mount Sinai, “he made haste, and bowed his head toward earth and worshipped.”⁶ When Ezekiel caught a glimpse of God's glory, he “fell on his face.”⁵ When Isaiah saw a vision of God, he said, “Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.”⁷ When Paul saw a vision of Christ's glory, “he fell to the earth. And he trembling and astonished said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’”⁸ When John had a vision of the risen Christ, he fell at His feet like a dead man.⁹ In every one of these men's lives, the fear of God resulted in obedient action. The same must be true for believers today!

By His grace, God has made kings and priests of those whose faith is entirely and exclusively in Christ.¹⁰

Peter wrote, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, *that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*”¹¹ Make no mistake, our salvation is first and foremost for the glory of God's name.

As a royal priesthood, we cannot fulfill the mandate to proclaim His praises unless we are seeking to walk as children of light. Paul admonished the Philippian Christians, “Do all things without complaining [grumbling] and disputing [arguing], that you may become blameless and harmless [innocent], children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life...”¹² Commentators apply the phrase, “holding fast the word of life,” two ways. 1) We are to believe and follow the Word of God personally.

Revere the Father's Holiness

2) We are to “hold out to, or offer” the Word of God publically. In either case, a manner of life that is consistent with the message shared is imperative and not optional.

Referring to God, Paul wrote, “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be *holy and without blame* before Him in love...” Likewise, Peter wrote, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in *all your conduct*, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” Holiness includes “separation from sin” and “devotion to God (in serving Him and obeying His commandments).”¹³ True reverence for God that results in pursuing holiness in thought, word and deed as He commands necessitates that we not departmentalize our lives. All too often, Christians “change gears” when their circumstances, their surroundings or their “interactive audience” changes. This chameleon approach to “working out our salvation with fear and trembling,” or our “active pursuit of obedience in the process of sanctification,”¹⁴ does not glorify God and does not testify of His saving grace in our lives. At all times and in all places we are to demonstrate the fear of the Lord!

1 Dictionaries 2 Job 28:28 3 I Sam.13:14 4 Psa.11:10 5 Ex.34:8 6 Ezek.1:28 7 Isa.6:5 8 Acts 9:3-6 9 Rev.1:17 10 Rev.1:6; 5:10 11 I Pet.2:9 12 Phil.2:14-16a 13 W, Grudem 14 MacArthur; Phil.2:12