

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Ralph Burleson

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Eddy Dickinson
Greg Lowery
Billy Box

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Mary Eddy

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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When A Real Fear Of God Exists



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



Fear NOT

By Sam Willcut

In a portion of First Peter 2:17, Peter simply said, “Fear God.” God has demanded reverential, godly fear throughout the ceaseless ages of time (Deut. 10:12; Eccl. 12:13). Fear is a very powerful, motivating force. It has caused many to run and hide from God, including Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:8), Jonah (Jonah 1:9-10) and all who sin against the divine will of God (Heb. 10:27). It has also caused many to obey Him, including Noah (Heb. 11:7), Abraham (Gen. 22:12), the midwives of Egypt (Ex. 1:17-19), the early church (Acts 5:11) and all who are mindful of the coming judgment (2 Cor. 5:10-11).

While we are commanded to fear God, we are also encouraged in numerous passages not to be afraid. In fact, we find the expression, “Fear not,” more than sixty times in the Bible. Therefore, let us notice more carefully these words of encouragement: “Fear not.”

We should not fear because God promises to bless us through our journey in life. God appeared to Abraham in a vision and told him not to fear, promising to bless him and his generations to follow (Gen. 26:24). While the Israelites battled with King Og at the battle of Edrei, God comforted Moses with the words, “Fear not” (Num. 21:33-35).

We should not fear because God will protect us when in peril. God said in Genesis 15:1, “Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield.” Elisha told his servant, “Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them” (2 Kings 6:16).

We should not fear because God strengthens us when we are weak. Moses encouraged the Israelites and Joshua with words, “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not” (Deut. 31:6-8). God reiterates to Isaiah several times, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee” (Isa. 41:10).

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn’s Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Doug Roberts: is in the nursing home in Hamilton recovering from a stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer can be defeated

Timmy Weeks: is recovering from recent knee surgery, please continue to keep him in your prayers

Brandy Weeks: having back problems, please pray that this problem can easily be treated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to make improvements, please pray that this continues

Don Lawrence: met with doctors concerning blockage with kidneys and are going to wait until February before taking further steps, please continue to keep him your prayers

Upcoming Events

Tonight	Holiday Fellowship	(after evening service)
January 6 th	Country Place	2:00pm
January 13 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
January 20 th	Fellowship Meal	

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Jeff Upton {Co-Worker of Donna} severe back problems waiting to have surgery, please keep him in your prayers

Paul Glen Davis: experienced severe burns and is in serious condition at UAB, please pray for him and his family

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

We should not fear because God is our companion in our trials. David charged his son Solomon, “Fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord” (1 Chron. 28:20). Isaiah prophesies of the church’s promise by God, “Fear not: for I am with thee” (Isa. 43:1-7).

We should not fear because God cares for his children. Jesus said in Matthew 10:31, “Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” He also said in Luke 12:32, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

We should not fear because God has given life beyond the grave. Jesus told John in Revelation 1:17-18, “Fear not...I am he that liveth, and was dead.” The angel told the women at the tomb, “Fear not ye...for he is risen” (Matt. 28:5-6).

What a great comfort for God to say to his children, “[Fear not], for I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Heb. 13:5-6).

While we give reverential, godly fear to God, let us put our complete trust and faith in Him so that we “Fear not!”

Obtained at: www.churchofchristarticles.com

The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom

By Kevin Cauley

It is common today to say that wisdom is knowledge in practice. While this may help us understand more about wisdom, this statement is not entirely accurate because it assumes that wisdom cannot be presented in the form of knowledge. Really, wisdom is a subset of knowledge; it is practical knowledge. Book knowledge is know-what knowledge. Wisdom is that area of knowledge that deals with know-how. For example, a medical student may know that the gall-bladder is near the liver, but only a seasoned surgeon will know how to identify the gall-bladder anatomically. The goal of wisdom literature is to provide some insight into the know-how of life.

The book of Job, the Psalms, and the Proverbs are in the part of the Old Testament known as Wisdom Literature. This is because these books of the Bible purport to set forth practical knowledge and understanding regarding day-to-day living. The first principle of wisdom literature is this: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Job 28:28; Psa. 111:10; Prov. 9:10). The reason you find this principle in all three of these books is simple. All wisdom begins with God as He is the source, par excellence, of how the creation works. After all, He is its creator, and no one knows better how something operates than the one who made it.

The ancients of the Old Testament knew that a healthy respect for God resulted in clean living, and this is something that has been lost on society today. The rise of modernity with its emphasis upon resolving all problems through autonomous human reason (humanism) has resulted in the disparaging of ancient wisdom. Modernism skeptically asks, “How could the ancients have known about the social sciences without the empirical method?” Yet when the so-called empirical method is applied rigorously today, the social-sciences have seldom (if at all) rendered novel conclusions. Traditional families really are the basis for a stable society. Attending church regularly really does make one a more charitable person. And a healthy respect for God leads to a more positive outlook on life. While just a few, each of these conclusions has been demonstrated in the social-science literature.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom because when we fear God, we are going to have respect for His word. The Bible is the word of God, and it contains more than just facts. It is a history of God’s people as they interact with the world and with one another. While this history unfolds, those who read the Bible are taught how best to live so as to maximize good relationships with one’s fellow and with one’s God. God is always the priority in these relationships because He has the keys to knowing what will best suit each person’s effort to build these relationships. God stands as the source for all good relationships because He is the ultimate source of goodness, and He is the ultimate source for understanding what best perpetuates relationships. God’s word is key to fearing God, and fearing God is the key to having true wisdom.

Wisdom, however, may be appreciated not only from the standpoint of its utility in providing for good relationships, but for the beauty of what it reveals in and of itself. Wisdom as a virtue (and God is the source of all that is wholly virtuous) may be sought as a good in and of itself. One receives blessing simply by studying the wisdom literature, and simply by imbibing at God’s fount of knowledge and goodness, whether one seeks to apply what one has learned or not. This is because God is ultimately beautiful and may be appreciated in and of Himself for Who He ultimately is. Wisdom, as an aspect of God’s character/nature, may also be so appreciated. This is partially why Proverbs 19:8 says, “He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.” If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, perhaps the love of the Lord is the end of wisdom, for when this world ends, and all we have left after this life is our eternal relationships with one another and God, loving that which is truly beautiful in and of itself will prove to be an intrinsic good. The practical ends of wisdom for this world may come to an end, but the eternal aspects of and for an appreciation of wisdom will endure in heaven as we know God’s true beauty.

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