

1 Peter 1:17, Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - Old or New Covenant Principle?

There is a misconception in modern Christendom that the fear of the Lord was an Old Covenant principle that is no longer applicable today. 1 John 4:18 is often cited, which says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love." It is true, the Christian does not need to fear God's wrath or punishment, because of Christ's substitutionary atonement on the cross. But, concerning the New Covenant, the Lord has declared, "I will put the fear of Me in their hearts" (Jer. 32:40). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov. 9:10) Read Acts 9:31, 1 Peter 2:17

☐ Tuesday - Filial Dread of Displeasing Our Heavenly Father.

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My fear?" says the Lord of hosts to you" (Malachi 1:6). Because our Heavenly Father is so incredibly gracious and loving, there ought to be within the heart of every true child of God a personal dread, call it fear if you like, of doing anything that would displease the Lord. Christian, "try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord" (Eph. 5:10), and loathe even the thought of sinning against Him! Read 1 John 1:3-7

☐ Wednesday - Eclipsing Fear of Anything or Anyone Else.

"And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread" (Isaiah 8:12-13). Christian, if you will cultivate a wholesome fear of the Lord, you will fear nothing else. For the fear of the Lord, properly understood, will eclipse every other fear. "The fear of man brings a snare" (Prov. 29:25), but "I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly" (Eccl. 8:12). Read Psalm 23:4, 27:1-3; Romans 8:31

☐ Thursday - Our Accountability to God.

God knows all and sees all (Job 28:24, 34:21; Psa. 90:8; Prov. 15:3), and one day each one of us must appear before the judgment seat of God and give an account of every thought, word, deed, motive, and attitude. "For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil" (Eccl. 12:14). And so, a proper fear of the Lord must include a clear understanding that we are accountable to God. So then, Christian, live each moment of each day with a conscious awareness that you are *coram deo* (Latin) "before the face of God." Read Psalm 139:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11

☐ Friday - Reverence & Awe.

The one true God is infinite, eternal and unchanging. He is gracious and compassionate, abounding in lovingkindness, and holy and just in all His ways. Christian, meditate on these things and then, "Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling" (Psalm 2:11). Read Hebrews 12:28-29