

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM!

Psalm 111:1-10

INTRODUCTION: When a person learns the fear of the Lord, they have the beginning of true wisdom. Psalm 111:10. No matter how much college training you may have if you don't know the fear of the Lord you still do not have true wisdom. The fear of the Lord is not a cringing kind of fear: Jeremiah 9:23-24; Isaiah 66:2; Psalm 84:11. The fear of the Lord is positive and it means to take God seriously and believe what He says about Himself. If we learn the fear of the Lord we will love and obey Him: Deuteronomy 5:29; Hebrews 11:6. Do you think most Americans have a fear of the Lord? Proverbs 1:7; Acts 9:31.

I. WHEN A MAN FEARS GOD HE HAS TRULY COME TO KNOW GOD!

The Bible says there is a reward for those who fear the Lord: Deuteronomy 6:24; Proverbs 9:10-12; Proverbs 15:33; Psalm 111:10. To fear God or not to fear Him is a choice each person must make: Proverbs 1:29-31. God will have the last laugh. Proverbs 1:28; 2 Timothy 1:7. The one fear the Lord will give to us if we ask is the fear of the Lord. Isaiah 33:6; Deuteronomy 5:29. The fear of the Lord always leads to obedience of the Lord which always leads to blessings from our Lord: Psalm 111:10. The fear of the Lord is a learned fear: Deuteronomy 4:10; Psalm 34:11.

II. WHEN A MAN FEARS THE LORD, HE DESIRES TO PLEASE THE LORD!

The fear of the Lord is something to be greatly desired: Nehemiah 1:11; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. When a person learns the fear of the Lord he also seeks to live for God and to live an obedient life, a holy life: Proverbs 3:7-8; Proverbs 14:2; Proverbs 14:16. When we learn the fear of the Lord we can tell it by the deeds in our lives: Ephesians 2:8-10. Yes, salvation is a free gift to us but it also teaches us that God has preordained good works that we are to do for His glory.

III. WHEN A MAN FEARS THE LORD HE FULLY TRUSTS IN HIM!

When we learn the fear of the Lord we also learn that we can trust in the Lord: Proverbs 14:26. So fearing the Lord increases our confidence in the Lord: Proverbs 19:23. So many people today are seeking peace without seeking to know and reverence the Lord and peace can never be attained apart from learning the fear of the Lord: Proverbs 19:23; Philippians 4:11-13; Proverbs 25:14. God has secrets that He reveals only to those who fear Him. Those who do not fear the Lord cannot learn those secrets: Deuteronomy 29:29. Our God promises special protection for those who fear Him: Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14. We also get God's provision for our lives as we fear Him: Psalm 34:9-11; Psalm 33:18-22.

IV. WHEN A MAN FEARS THE LORD, HE WHOLLY SERVES THE LORD!

When a man fears the Lord, he will serve Him with all his heart: Psalm 2:11; Joshua 14:6-8; Hebrews 11:7. Noah was moved with the holy fear of God! He took God's word seriously. James 2:14-25: faith is a verb, it always brings the action of obedience. Psalm 2:11; Hebrews 12:28-29. Reverence and godly fear are in the same sentence. Psalm 86:11-13; it pays to learn the fear of the Lord! We are to be the salt and the light of this world: Matthew 5:13-16. Salt penetrates and preserves. Light shows the realities of God's truth and gives hope in a very dark world. 2 Chronicles 7:14.