

Glory to God: Proclaiming God's Goodness
How to Give God Glory - Fear
1 Chronicles 16:28-31; Deuteronomy 10:12-13,20-21

1 Chronicles 16:28-31~ ²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! ²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; ³⁰ tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. ³¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

Deuteronomy 10:12-13,20-21~ ¹² "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? ... ²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹ He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.

I. Introduction

I was thinking this past week that we are most satisfied when:

- we know what we need to do AND
- to do that which needed to be done.

We need both ... the knowing and the doing. One fame author wrote that the reason people get burn out is not because they are doing too many things, but that they do not have a purpose for what they are doing. They do, but they don't know. Conversely, if we know but we don't do, the result is the same.

I can relate to this. I recall that during our Hallelujah Festival, our church set up this beautiful booth so the children of the community could come out and play and win prizes. Our church had a wonderful turn out. Almost everybody from Forgiven Life showed up to show his or her support. We only had one booth and all the "jobs" were taken. There was nothing for me to do so I just stood there ... twitting my thumbs ... and feeling very awkward.

Don't get me wrong.

- I had fun watching the kids play. I cheered along when they broke the board.
- I felt joy seeing our church engaging the community.
- I was proud being a part of such a giving church.

But I was just standing with nothing to do. So I just lean against a wall and held it up. You see, we are satisfied when we know what we need to do and to do that which needed to be done.

These weeks, we have been traveling through the Bible to discover what we need to do and to do that which needed to be done. The purpose for which we were created and the purpose for which God redeems us from a self-center life is so that we can glorify God.

"Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever"

From the pages of the Old Testament to the letters of the New Testament, that has been the M.O. of every single believer ... the Glory of God. How do we glorify God? The Bible tells us in 1 Chronicles 16:28-31. There are three ways and all three ways must be done.

1 Chronicles 16:28-31~

²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,

{ ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

{ ²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

{ bring an offering and come before him!
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

{ ³⁰ tremble before him, all the earth;
yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

{ ³¹ Let the heavens be glad,
and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

1. First, we are to give glory by bringing an Offering to God (1 Chronicles 16:29).

We glorify God when we offer Him sacrifices. When we worship Him, we are glorifying God. Sam Storm, president-elect of the Evangelical Theological Society wrote:

"Worship is not about my enjoyment. It is about my enjoyment of God. It is not about my pleasure or my delight or my satisfaction. It is about my pleasure, delight, and satisfaction in God. Worship is not simply about glorifying God. It is about glorifying God by enjoying Him forever."

And we are not to offer up any sacrifices that we want. That does not please God. Like Cain of old in Genesis 4 decided to offer up any sacrifices that he wanted instead of what God desired ... the Bible said that "... for Cain and his offering He [God] had no regard" (Genesis 4:5). God was not pleased. We have to offering us sacrifices that He desires.

In the New Testament, we discovered three sacrifices that please God in Hebrew 13:15-16:

Hebrews 13:15-16~ ¹⁵ Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- a. The Sacrifice of Praise
- b. The Sacrifice of Doing Good
- c. The Sacrifice of Sharing

If you want to brush up on the offerings and sacrifices that are pleasing to God, you can listen to previous message on our YouTube channel. Just type in "Forgiven Life Community Church" and it will take you there.

2. Second, we are to give glory by Trembling before God (1 Chronicles 16:30).

We glorify God when we fear Him. Jerry Bridges of the Navigators noted that:

"The person who fears God seeks to live all of life to the glory of God ... All the activities of life should be pursued with the aim of glorifying God."

We will take a look at that more in a minute.

3. Third, we are to give glory by Rejoicing before God (1 Chronicles 16:31).

Jonathan Edwards, the American Puritan Revivalist, penned:

"The end of the creation is that the creation might glorify [God]. Now what is glorifying God, but a rejoicing at that glory he has displayed?"

John Piper ... I love his thought:

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

II. The Fear

Let's spend our last few time looking at the second part of glorifying God ... to fear God.

Some people think fear is a bad thing. They contrast fear with faith - either you have fear or you have faith. They use Scriptural passage like 1 John 4:18 to prove their point.

1 John 4:18 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.

That is a false dichotomy. Fear and faith are not opposites. It is not either you have faith or you have fear, so one must replace their fear with faith, as though fear is a bad thing. Fear is not the problem. It is the object of that fear that is the problem. In other words, what are we fearing that determines whether the fear is good or the fear is bad.

Please turn with me to Matthew 10 where we can see the contrast between what we are to fear. Look at verse 26. Jesus instructing his disciples told them:

1. First, we do NOT fear Men.

Matthew 10:26~²⁶ “So have no fear of them ...

The "them" are the men who would malign the disciples because of their allegiance to Jesus in verse 25. Jump down with me to verse 31.

Matthew 10:31~³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

So the Bible does teaches us not to fear. But what are we not to fear? We are not to fear men.

2. Second, we are to fear God.

However, instead of fearing men, we are to fear something else. Look with me at verse 28. In between verses 26 and 31, we have verse 28.

Matthew 10:28~²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul ...

In other words, do not fear men. What can they do? Well, they can kill the body, that is, they can kill us physically. They can extinguish our life from this physical existence. This is a genuine reason to fear men, that is why we all lock the doors at night. Every night before going to bed, I make my rounds. I turn on the alarm, walk around the house to make sure all the doors are locked, and put Charlie in front of the house to guard the doors.

Also if you look at verse 25, men can malign us, that is, they can speak evil of us ... slander us ... defame us. This is also a genuine reason for some to fear men. They care about what people think of them ... of their reputation. But this is all that men can do. They cannot kill the soul.

Rather, Jesus said ...

Matthew 10:28~²⁸ ... Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

In other words, fear God who cannot only kill us physically, but also kill us spiritually ... kill us completely. And God did and does kill the body. God wiped out a whole city of people ... Sodom. In Acts 5, God killed Ananias and Sapphira ... struck them dead. In Acts 11, God also killed Harod. Like men, God does kill the body. But unlike men, God can kill the soul as well. So fear God because even if men kill the body, God can raise up that body to everlasting life.

So God does say, "Don't fear this but fear that." Either one fears God or one fears men. Fear in and of itself is neither good nor bad. It is what we fear that adds value or detracts from fear. Fear men ... bad. Fear God ... good. In fact, to fear God is to glorify God.

III. The Gospel of Jesus

Some people think that fear is not a New Testament concept ... that we should not fear God for God is love. They treat the Father and Jesus without deference but with contempt in the way they speak and live. But is the fear of God taught in the New Testament? The answer is "yes".

Please look with me at Revelation chapter 14. In Revelation 14, John, the apostle, saw an angel flying above him carrying something. The angel was carrying the "eternal gospel" ... the "everlasting gospel" ... the gospel of Jesus Christ (the word "gospel" means "good news, by the way). Please notice the message of the gospel.

Revelation 14:6-7~ ⁶ Then I [John] saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim ~~to those who dwell on earth~~, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he [the angel] said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

The gospel message includes two exhortations.

1. First, the gospel exhorts us to Fear God (Revelation 14:7).

We Christians focus so much on the gospel being the "gospel of love" ... and it is. But the gospel is also the "gospel of fear" ... we need to fear God. I wonder at times if we focus so much on the love of God that we forget to fear God.

(By the way, in the Forgiven Life section of your notes, that is, your homework, you will look at Scriptures to note some of the evidences of a person who has fear. In other words, if you have the fear of God in your life, some, if not all, of these evidences will appear in your life. That is the Forgiven Life section of your notes).

I do agree with one author who said that the lack of the fear of God is a GREAT SCANDAL within the Church. We are just not afraid of God. It is true that according to 1 John 4:18, "perfect love casts out fear" ... the more we love God, the less we have to fear of God. But when we do not take care to be obedient to God, we walk around acting like there is nothing to fear.

Romans 3:18 tells us that it is the heathens and wicked men who have no fear of God.

Romans 3:18~ ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

But that is not true of Christians. We fear God. Please note two things about this fear of God in Revelation 14:7.

- a. One: to fear God is to Glorify God.

Revelation 14:7~⁷ And he [the angle] said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come

When we fear God, we glorify God. We need to cultivate an attitude of fear. If we are to glorify God, which is our chief end, we need to have the presence of fear.

- b. Two: to fear God is to fear the Judgment of God.

Revelation 14:7~⁷ And he [the angle] said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come

To fear God is to afraid of His judgment. That is why when we are not walking in obedience, we should be afraid. Listen to the warning of Peter in his letter.

1 Peter 1:17~¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile

Why do we conduct ourselves with the fear of the Father? Peter said, "because He is the one who judges impartially". The judgment of God is what brings me to fear God.

2. Second, the gospel exhorts us to Worship God (Revelation 14:7).

Worship is part of the gospel of Jesus. Worship, or offering, is how we glorify God. I spent two weeks talking about this already.

IV. The Meaning of Fear

Now that we know we need to fear God, what does it mean?

1. First, to fear God is to Reverence God. (Hebrews 12:28-29)

Hebrews 12:28-29~²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:28-29~²⁸ 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. ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire. (NKJV)

People have often translated "fear" to mean "respect" or "reverence". They use fear in a sense of honoring God or being in awe of God.

Someone once describe fear as standing on the edge of the mountain cliff, looking across the vast chasm at the beauty and grandeur of a serene scene painted across the horizon. And there is fear and awe as we recognize how small we are compare to the depth and majestic creation. Maybe there is a sense of that in fearing.

But fear means more than that. And I personally think that to limit fear to respect or reverence is to water down the significant of fear. Fear is much more than that.

2. Second, to fear God is to be Afraid of God. (Exodus 20:20)
Fear means to be afraid ... that is what it means to fear God. To fear God is to be afraid of Him ... to be afraid of the consequences for disobedience.

The fear of God does not incapacitate us where we are so afraid that we freeze up. Not unlike an intruder who breaks into our home and we are so afraid that we stand frozen and motionless. On the contrary, **instead of incapacitate us, the fear of God frees us.** It frees us to do the right thing and the righteous thing. This is a health fear.

Exodus 20:20~ ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”

Notice the contrast. Do not be afraid, but be afraid, that is, be fearful. When God came and visited His people on Mount Sanai to give them the Law, the people saw the mountain smoking and the thunder and lightning flashing and they became afraid. What Moses is saying to the people is that they should not be afraid at the coming of God to the point where they would hid themselves from him. Not unlike Adam when he ate the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Genesis 3:9-10~ ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

The fear that incapacitate us where we run and hide is not the fear that glorifies God. The fear that glorifies God is the fear of the consequences of disobedience that it frees us to do the right thing and not sin (Exodus 20:20). And this fear should always be with us ... "that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."

Quite frankly, I do not know if God's people have the fear of Him anymore. I do not know if our nation fears God at all. If we think that we can sin with impunity, that is sinning without enacting any consequences for our action, we do not have the fear of God.

I was really disturbed after the announcement that Donald Trump will be this nation's forty-fifth president. The comments that were made by Christians on social media were disturbing. The world is watching, and the behavior of some Christians were deplorable.

- Christians calling Christians "fool", disregarding Jesus' warning that "whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell" (Matthew 5:22).
- Christians cursing other Christians.

That is bad enough, but to do it over social media for the watching world to see? And right after that nasty post where they just lambasted another brothers and sisters in Christ, they post something about Christ and Christianity? Are you kidding me? If I did not know them, I would not have thought they were Christians. And maybe they are not.

John's words are clear.

1 John 4:20~ ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Whether they have salvation or not, I cannot judge. God will judge. But I can make one judgment, that is, there is no fear of God. The fear of God keeps one from sinning, and that glorifies God.

3. Third, to fear God is not Negative but Positive. (Exodus 1:15-17.20-21)

The fear of God is not a negative concept, but positive. Here are some biblical examples.

- a. God Blesses Those Who Fear Him.

Exodus 1:15-17, 20-21~ ¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live ... ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

The midwives feared God and saved lives instead of taking lives. They feared God more than they feared Pharaoh so they became the protector of life instead of the harbinger of death.

- b. God wants Leaders who fear Him.

Exodus 18:21~ ²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

Leaders were chosen based on one main factor ... they feared God. And because they fear God and not men, they were men who devoted themselves to truth. They would

not take a bribe, and thus, corrupt justice. Interesting that the qualifications that we choose for our leaders is not based on whether they fear of God, but on whether they are seminary trained or charismatic or eloquent in speech.

c. Fear Brings Compassion.

Compassion to those who have defects.

Leviticus 19:14~ ¹⁴ You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

The way we treat those who are disable is based on our fear of God. Taking advantage of the less fortunate is not fearing God.

Compassion to elders.

Leviticus 19:32~ ³² “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

The reason why we honor our elderly is because we fear God. The fear of God is positive because it frees us to treat people with kindness and justice. In Moses' words, if the fear of God remains in us, it will abstain us from sin. This glorifies God.

Remember that glorifying God is to show or demonstrate God's goodness. Even in judgment, God is glorified, because in judgment, the goodness of God is revealed. Either one fears God, thus, guarding oneself from sin and bringing glory to God, or one does not fear God, commits acts of sin, receives the judgment of God, and glorifying God that way.

d. Fears Brings Confession.

In Joshua 7, that was a man named Achan. He did not fear God. God specifically told the people of Israel through the mouth of Joshua to dedicate certain items to the Lord and not coveted those items for themselves for the first fruits belonged to God.

Joshua 6:17-19~ ¹⁷ And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. ¹⁸ But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. ¹⁹ But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.”

The fear of the Lord did not remain with Achan so he succumbed to his covetousness and sinned. He stole those items that were banned and dedicated to the Lord.

Joshua 7:1~ ¹ But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

Judgment fell upon Israel. Not knowing what sin Achan had committed, Joshua confronted Achan and told him this:

Joshua 7:19~ ¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me.”

Achan confessed his sin, thus showing God's goodness that He rightly judged Israel.

V. Cultivating the Fear of God

Knowing that we should fear God, how do we cultivate it?

1. First, we Choose to fear God. (Proverbs 1:28-29)

Proverbs 1:28-29~ ²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

To fear God or not to fear God is a choice. It starts with a choice. Earlier in Proverbs, it states that the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge. These wicked people hate knowledge. So naturally, these wicked people hate fear and do not choose the fear of the LORD.

2. Second, we Seek to fear God. (Proverbs 1:28-29)

Proverbs 1:28-29~ ²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

Once a choice to fear God is made, we must seek after the fear of God. The fear of God does not come naturally. It requires diligence and commitment to obtain fear.

3. Third, we learn to fear God. (Psalm 86:11)

Psalm 86:11~ ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

Once fear is sought, fear must be taught. Like a valuable treasure, fear must be dug to uproot and possess. The Psalmist prays for God to teach him the fear of the Lord. We learn to fear God through prayers. We learn to fear God through studying His Word.

Once we learn the fear of the Lord, we must also teach the fear of the Lord to our children.

Psalm 34:11~ ¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

VI. The Blessing

Presider: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be unto you.

Congregation: And also to you.

VII. Forgiven Life (Life Application)

1. Set your heart and mind this week by choosing to fear the Lord. Once you choose to fear the Lord, you must seek Him and learn from Him. Write your plan on how you will seek and learn to fear God starting this week.

a. I will seek the Lord by: _____

b. I will learn from the Lord by: _____

2. There are some evidences to see if there is the presence of fear in your life. Look at the following Scriptures and note what are these evidences.

a. Isaiah 66:1-2: _____

b. Isaiah 8:12-13: _____

c. Proverbs 14:26: _____

d. Proverbs 3:7~ _____

e. Philippians 2:12: _____

3. Take some time to pray to the Father and asking Him to teach you to fear Him. Write your prayers here: _____
