

Introduction

1. If someone asked me, “what is the fear of the LORD?” What would I say?
 - a. Would I have an appropriate answer?
 - b. Could I show someone biblically what the fear of the LORD is?
 - c. This sermon is designed to help us with a basic definition which we can build upon as we study and grow
2. Two Scripture references help to fundamentally define what the fear of the LORD is
 - a. From the Old Testament ([Ps. 33:8](#))
 - b. From the New Testament ([Lk. 18:2](#))

Psalm 33:8

1. A parallel thought is found in this verse regarding the fear of the LORD
 - a. “Let all the earth fear the LORD” is equivalent to “Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him”
 - b. Thus, to fear the LORD is to stand in awe of Him
2. fear (*yare* H3372 yaw-ray´) defined
 - a. “a primitive root; to *fear*; morally to *revere*; causatively to *frighten*:—affright, be (make) afraid, dread (ful), (put in) fear (-ful, -fully, -ing), (be had in) reverence (-end), × see, terrible (act, -ness, thing).” (Strong 51)
 - b. “Used of a person in an exalted position, *yare* connotes ‘standing in awe.’ This is not simple fear, but reverence, whereby an individual recognizes the power and position of the individual revered and renders him proper respect.” (Vine 79)
 - c. Respect is defined as, “high or special regard: esteem” (Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
3. stand in awe (*guwr* H1481 goor) defined
 - a. “revere, formally, fear, i.e., have a profound respect and reverence for another, with an implication of awe bordering on fear” (DBL Hebrew)
 - b. Awe is defined as, “an emotion variously combining dread, veneration, and wonder that is inspired by authority or by the sacred or sublime” (Merriam-Webster)

Luke 18:2

1. Two original language words are found in this verse which help to define the fear of the LORD or God
2. who did...fear (*phobeo* G5399 fob-eh´-o) defined
 - a. “to *frighten*, i.e. (passively) to be *alarmed*; by analogy to be *in awe* of, i.e. *revere*:—be (+ sore) afraid, fear (exceedingly), reverence.” (Strong 76)
 - b. “to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience” (Thayer 656)

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- c. “to have a profound measure of respect for, (*have*) *reverence, respect*, with special reference to fear of offending” (BDAG 1061)
3. regard (*entrepo* G1788 en-trep´-o) defined
 - a. “to *invert*, i.e. (figuratively and reflexively) in a good sense, to *respect*; or in a bad one, to *confound*:—regard, (give) reverence, shame.” (Strong 29)
 - b. “to reverence a person” (Thayer 219)
 - c. “in the middle voice, ‘to reverence, regard’” (Vine 517)
 - d. “to show deference to a person in recognition of special status, *turn toward something/someone, have regard for, respect*” (BDAG 341)
 - e. Translated as “respect” in [Mt. 21:37](#), [Mk. 12:6](#), and [Lk. 20:13](#)

What is the Fear of the LORD?

1. A common word throughout these definitions is the word “reverence”
 - a. This is a basic definition of the fear of the LORD
2. Reverence defined (Merriam-Webster)
 - a. “honor or respect felt or shown: deference *especially*: profound adoring awed respect”
 - b. “a gesture of respect (as a bow)”
 - c. “the state of being revered”
 - d. “one held in reverence”
3. The Psalmist tells us why the earth should revere the LORD ([Ps. 33:6-9](#))
 - a. Consider [Ps. 111](#)
4. Jesus shows us the results when one does not revere God ([Lk. 18:6](#))
5. The Scriptures are full of great examples of people who revered God
 - a. Men like Noah, Job, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Daniel, and Cornelius
 - b. Women like Ruth, Esther, Elizabeth, and Mary
 - c. The ultimate example being Jesus Christ

Conclusion

1. If someone asked me, “what is the fear of the LORD?” What would I say?
 - a. In general, it means to respect, revere, or give deference to the God of heaven
 - b. What that looks like in practice we will examine throughout this year
2. Consider man’s all ([Ecc. 12:13](#))
 - a. This is a critical subject to our spiritual wellbeing