Introduction

- 1. Reverence is the basic definition of the fear of the LORD
 - a. Reverence is defined as, "honor or respect felt or shown: deference [respect and esteem due a superior or an elder] *especially*: profound adoring awed respect." (Merriam-Webster)
- 2. With reverence as a basic definition of the fear of the LORD, what are some results that come from our reverence toward the God of Heaven?

Knowledge is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence is the starting point of knowledge (Pr. 1:7)
- 2. God has placed all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in His Son, Jesus Christ (Col. 2:3)
 - a. When we understand that God speaks to us through His Son, and ultimately His Word, then reverence is critical to obtaining saving knowledge (cf. Heb. 1:1-2; Jn. 12:48-50)

Wisdom is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence is the first principle [opening; commencement] of wisdom (Pr. 9:10; cf. Ps. 111:10)
 - a. Wisdom has been variously defined as, "knowledge properly applied," and "seeing the end at the beginning"
- 2. What better source of wisdom than the One who declares the end from the beginning? (<u>Isa.</u> 46:10)
 - a. If I reverence God, then I can share in the wisdom He has revealed (<u>Dt. 29:29</u>; <u>Jm. 3:17-18</u>; <u>Rm. 1:16-17</u>)

Belief is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in believing in the LORD (Ex. 14:31)
 - a. What prompted this belief? God's great work in Egypt (cf. Ex. 7-14)
- 2. God has given us enough signs to produce belief (Jn. 20:30-31)

Obedience is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in obeying God (Dt. 5:29)
 - a. Our obedience to God must take priority when in conflict with man's law (<u>Ex. 1:15-21; Gen. 9:6</u>; cf. <u>Acts 5:26-32</u>)
- 2. Not obeying God comes at a price (Ex. 9:13-26)
- 3. Blessings follow obedience (Dt. 6:1-2)

Holiness is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in being holy (2 Cor. 6:11-7:1)
 - a. The church has been called out of darkness (1 Pt. 2:9)
 - b. The church is to be salt and light (Mt. 5:13-16)
- 2. A difference <u>must</u> be made between the unholy and holy (<u>Lev. 10:8-11</u>)

Service is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in service to God (Dt. 6:13)
 - a. God requires wholehearted service (Dt. 10:12-13)
- 2. Our service is rendered to God who must be worshipped in spirit and in truth (Mt. 4:10; Jn. 4:19-24)

Happiness is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in happiness (Pr. 28:14)
 - a. Happy (asre H835) is often translated as "blessed" (cf. Ps. 1:1, 32:1)
- 2. Reverence must be consistent and promotes consistency
 - a. God is consistent (cf. <u>1 Cor. 14:33</u>, <u>40</u>)

Departing From Evil is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in departing from evil (Pr. 3:7)
 - a. It should not be hard to depart from that which we hate (Pr. 8:13)
- 2. Every Christian crucified the old man of sin at baptism (Rm. 6:1-6; cf. Col. 3:1-11)
 - a. Do not look back; keep your hand to the plow (Lk. 9:62)

Not Sinning is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in not sinning (Ex. 20:20)
 - a. Why? I am afraid of breaking God's Law
 - b. The reverent will have God's Word in their hearts for the purpose of not sinning (Ps. 119:11)
- 2. Every thought must be filtered through the Word of God (2 Cor. 10:3-6)

Hating Covetousness is a Result of Reverence

- 1. Reverence results in hating covetousness (Ex. 18:21)
 - a. Covetousness is defined as, "**ill-gotten gain**, dishonest gain, valuable things obtained by theft, deception, or other immoral actions" (DBL Hebrew)
 - b. A person's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses (Lk. 12:15)
 - c. Some are easily persuaded to pervert judgment and truth because of the love of money (Mic. 3:11; cf. 1 Tim. 6:9-10)
- 2. Godliness with contentment is great gain (<u>1 Tim. 6:6-8</u>)

Conclusion

- 1. Reverence results in belonging to God (Mal. 3:16-18)
 - a. All accountable people are either a child of God or a child of the devil (1 Jn. 3:10)
 - b. The reverent will do what it takes to belong to God
 - c. God listens to the reverent as they speak to each other, and He keeps a book of remembrance (Mal. 3:16)
- 2. We want to be God's jewels and to be spared [showed mercy] by Him (Mal. 3:17)
- 3. We want to be those that are righteous and serve God (Mal. 3:18)