

Wisdom from the Proverbs

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:" – Proverbs 1:5.

Fear of the Lord

The Proverbs give God's children practical and blessed wisdom for every-day living. This blessed book, within the Book of books, gives us blessed understanding of the "Fear of the Lord."

What does the term "fear" mean?

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines fear as: A mingled feeling of dread and reverence towards God (formerly, also, toward rightful authority).

The noun 'fear' is translated from the Hebrew word yir'ah which is translated otherwise as 'exceedingly, dreadful, and fearfulness.'

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

- This verse ends a comprehensive description of all men in their natural state in Adam.

The wisdom of God does not change with the ebb and flow of time—but He is the same and his word the same in every generation. He commands us not to envy sinners—the wicked of this world or regard those who are given to change. While many give themselves over to situational ethics (changes as society changes), our Lord and His laws change not. Let us fear the Lord!

Proverbs 1:7 The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10-11 The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

- The basis of both wisdom and knowledge is the fear of the Lord—the awe and reverence toward the Almighty, the owner of all souls. The verses in Proverbs about the fear of the Lord need little or no explanation—they are clear and concise.

Proverbs 1:24-29 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the **fear of the LORD**:

- The day shall come when God shall call to judgment all men—and shall laugh and mock because their fear comes and their desolation as a whirlwind. Unsaved men do not fear the Lord.

Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the **fear of the LORD**, and find the knowledge of God.

- Understanding the fear of the Lord involves keeping God's commandments and diligently crying out for and seeking wisdom as silver and hidden treasure. God's holy word is filled with hidden nuggets.

Proverbs 8:13 The **fear of the LORD** is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Proverbs 10:27 The **fear of the LORD** prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Proverbs 14:26-27 In the **fear of the LORD** is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 15:16 Better is little with the **fear of the LORD** than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the **fear of the LORD** men depart from evil.

Proverbs 19:23 The **fear of the LORD** tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the **fear of the LORD** are riches, and honour, and life.

Proverbs 23:17-18 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the **fear of the LORD** all the day long. For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 24:21-22 My son, **fear thou the LORD** and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

- These Proverbs teach us so much in plain, unmistakable words. We depart from evil by the fear of the Lord—we hate the evil way because we have the fear of the Lord. We enjoy a better life in the fear of our Lord. There is an end—and we understand that to be true because we fear the Lord. Our God is the same—yesterday, and today, and forever—He said, “I am God, I change not.”

