



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!
Sunday - June 23, 2024

What It Means to Fear the Lord

by Troy Spradlin

Many people have a somewhat skewed, or incorrect view of God. Our Creator is often portrayed or thought of as some angry, jealous policeman sitting up in heaven just waiting for us to make a mistake so that He can strike us down with fire or lightning. Yes, we read that He loves us. Still, the Bible also says, "For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:5), "O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs" (Psalm 94:1), and "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31). In fact, we are commanded, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all**" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Indeed, it sounds as if Yahweh may be a bit hostile, ill-tempered, and vindictive. So, is that true? What does it mean to "fear" the Lord?

First, it is not true that God is some moody, envious law enforcer just waiting for us to mess up. That is not His character. Instead, the Bible describes God as "love" (1 John 4:8), "merciful and forgiving" (Daniel 9:9; Luke 6:36), and "the LORD is good" (Psalm 34:8). We should also remember that "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19)

So how do we reconcile those verses with the ones that talk about His "vengeance and wrath" (Nahum 1:2)? Perhaps it would help to think of a judge who is over a court of law. The judge is simply a human being with authority according to the law. If a criminal stands before him and is pronounced guilty for the crime that he committed, how might the offender view the judge? He will probably see him as angry, wrathful, or "unfair" because he didn't rule in the way the criminal wanted. But the character of the judge himself may simply be a kind, gentle person who is just doing his job. He may actually care for the offender, but at the same time, he must carry out justice according to the law. That is similar to how we can understand God's character.

God's wrath, vengeance, or jealousy are all based on our behavior toward Him, not Who He is. His character is pure and as Exodus 34:6-7 says, He is "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty ..." And, Psalm 7:11, "God is a just judge." God's true nature is that of love, not indignation.

Secondly, the word "fear," in the many verses that associate it with our relationship to God, can also be translated as "revere, stand in awe, show reverence, give respect or honor to." It certainly carries the idea of being afraid, even terrified of the Almighty (Gen 3:10; Ex 19:16-17; Psalm 114:7), but also implies a healthy respect and admiration for His sovereignty. We might make a comparison between an earthly father to our Heavenly Father. A father obviously loves his child, unconditionally, and wants to provide for and protect the child. Yet, he also wants the child to respect him as the parent and as the authority figure in the relationship. It's the same with Yahweh, our loving God. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him." (Psalm 89:7).

God's children should certainly not be afraid of Him. We have no reason to be afraid. The Lord has given us the promise that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39), and that He will never leave us, nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). So, "fearing God" simply means having a deep reverence for Him. Such understanding should impact the way we live. **To fear God means respecting Him, obeying by submitting to His will, and worshiping Him in spirit and truth.** "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind," (2 Tim 1:7)

The only ones who should be afraid of or tremble at God are those who are disobedient to His will. Every human being that has ever lived, is living, or will live shall stand before the throne (Rev 20:12-15). When Jesus returns, God will "take vengeance on those who do not know Him" (2 Thess 1:8). That is certainly a different kind of fear!



MSYG EVENTS & INFO



Please be prayerful for a fun and fruitful time at camp in 2024 for our Youth Group & Kingdom Kids!

YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. July 3rd

4:30 pm in the FH



SIGN-UP & PAY \$40 BY JUNE 16



THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." - Prov 9:10



Digital access to our Calendars on your computer or personal device.

Scan this QR Code for the Church Calendar on teamup.com

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Cassie Buchanant* - recovery, PT outside
- Caitlyn Crider* - back surgery June 25th
- Katie Delmer family - loss and tragedy (D.Hill)
- Dawn Holloway - health, hospice
- Ann Lester - fell, prayers (P.Lester's mom)
- Philip Lester*- 3rd ankle surgery, recovery
- Bob Locklin* -shoulder replacement, recovery
- Jack Locklin - surgery, recovery (Avalon)
- Gloria Martin* - PT pain, vision issues
- John Pace* - surgery, knee replacement
- Sharon Parker* - upcoming heart surgery
- Amy Prince - surgery, recovery (Burnham*)
- Patsy Prince - fractured hip and shoulder
- Kenny Schenck - heart procedure (Fuller*)
- Edith Sullins - @ home, recovery (Hatcher*)
- Edwina Sumrall-broken tailbone, prayers
- Debbie Rivers - surgery soon (Jak G.* sister)

Grieving a Loss

- Bostwick* family - loss of mom, Kandi
- Winston & Lola Burnham-loss of Brooks Ann
- Judy Jennings & family* - loss of Terry
- Lanya Lester* & family - loss of mom, Renee
- Paul Lipford & family - loss of mother
- Laura Lewis* & family - loss of father, Larry
- Linda Loftin* & family - loss of Jim*
- Ruth Phillips* family - passing of Ruth
- Ted Russel* - loss of sister
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy*

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Ron Bartanen* - Victorian Manor
- Sherryn Canniff* - homebound
- Sherry Davis*-Memory Care (Davis/Napier*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia*- Fort Walton Beach
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Peggy Masoner - Santa Rosa Health Care
- Larry McDaniel*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller* - Coral Bay of Pensacola
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (J.English mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)

Expectant Mothers

- Tara Henry - May 2024
- Lauren Godwin - August 2024

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Wilfred Derrick - kidney failure (Renee Ray*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton* - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Jackie Hamilton-severe health issue(McGriff*)
- Chris Hollins - health, test (McGriff*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Patrick Johnson- upcoming surg. (McGriff*)
- Joe Lewis - lupus
- Josie Locklin* - fractured vertebrae , health
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff* - upcoming test, prayers
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Rodger Schweitzerlett - (Gallagher*)
- Donnie Turner- (Helms*)
- Willie Waitman Jr. - leg amputation(Pace)

Military

- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Jacksonville, FL
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Ron Bartanen* - lung
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Lilly Cain - bladder (R. Locklin* sister)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Jack Davis*
- Sheryl Downy - (Burnham*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Geodee Fred - (C.Bartanen*)
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jennings - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff*)
- Greg Lewis* - lung cancer
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Timothy Parker - (Brittany's* dad)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Amy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- Troy Vonada - kidneys (Gloria)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Students in College

- Haley Bartell
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- LizAnn Webb
- Lily Weathersbee
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makenley Hitchcock* - Baptized 12/31/23
- Debbie Gill* - Baptized 1/23/24
- Savannah Smith* - Baptized 1/31/24
- Brad & Amy Turner* - Baptized 2/18/24
- Logan Ray* - Baptized 2/25/24
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Restored 12/31/23
- Deanna Wilson* - Restored 4/19/24
- April Estain* - Restored (6/9/24)
- Joe and Gloria Martin*- Identified 2/4/24
- Billy & Heidi Hudgens*-Identified 4/21/24



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

MORNING

Opening Prayer Trevor Bostwick
 Song Director Blake Hatcher
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "Ripple Effect Decisions"
 Scripture Reading Richard McCool
 Proverbs 3:5-7
 Closing Prayer Doug Lee

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Rick Bartenan Seth Crider
 Joe Taylor Michael English
 Logan Ray (Balcony)
 Comments Stephen English

EVENING

Opening Prayer Mike Scott
 Singing Holden Raley
 Scripture Nick Bartell
 Psalm 100:1-5
 Comments Stephen English

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep ... Mike & Patsy Scott
 PowerPoint Philip Lester
 Secure Building Rick Bird

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Rick Bird
 Opening Prayer Josh Jennings

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 152
 AM Worship 209
 PM Worship 119
 Wed. Night Bible Class 172
 Contribution \$7,932
Weekly Budget : \$11,558

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming! You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday, by noon.**
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of you contribution.



FOOD PANTRY

- Food Pickup : 7/9/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Preparing Boxes:
 - 7/10/24 @ 5:30 PM
 - 7/11/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Distribution : 7/11/24 @ 2:30 PM

Please consider donating toiletry items or sunblock

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



OWLS BIBLE STUDY

1st Corinthians

Every Thurs. 10:30 AM

love is patient, love is kind
1 corinthians 13:4

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



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DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

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 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Mason Chandler
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden