

5. How much does fear play a role in motivating you to do what is right and good?

SERIES: A Kingdom Established (Gospel Project)

SERMON 12: "In Conclusion"

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

DATE: August 26/27, 2017

6. Where in your life do you find yourself setting goals that are too short-sighted?

FEAR OF GOD, OBEDIENCE, AND JUDGMENT IN THE NT

Matthew 10:16-32

7. Reflect personally on the John Piper quote from the sermon.

GOD'S GRACE, MERCY, AND LOVE IN THE OT

Exodus 33:17-23

8. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply.

FEAR OF GOD, OBEDIENCE, AND JUDGMENT AND THE GOSPEL

1. Don't let go of fearing God because fear is a _____ for doing what's right and good.

"Fear of death or injury helps people drive safely; fear of heart attacks helps people keep their cholesterol levels low; fear of academic failure helps people study and learn; fear of harming children helps keep marriages together. Fear is a basic motivator of human behavior, and attempts to deny that the Bible actually tells us that we should fear God are quite misplaced." (Paul Enns)

2. If you exclude the fear of God, keeping his commandments, and the reality of judgment from your faith, you're _____ will be short-sighted and it will not _____.
3. There is a _____ and an almost _____ that comes from understanding God's grace.

"The fear of God is what is left of the storm when you have a safe place to watch right in the middle of it. Hope turns fear into a trembling and peaceful wonder; and fear takes everything trivial out of hope and makes it earnest and profound. The terrors of God make the pleasures of his people intense. The fireside fellowship is all the sweeter when the storm is howling outside the cottage." (John Piper)

Family Discussion Questions:

1. How does faith in Christ keep our family from giving in to a negative view of life?
2. How do we answer the question "What are we on earth for?"
3. What are some ways our family can look to Jesus for the answers to life's deepest questions?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Ecclesiastes raises questions about life that can be answered only in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul declared that apart from the resurrection of Jesus, our faith is meaningless and there is no forgiveness of sins (1 Corinthians 15:17).
But because the resurrection is true, our life has purpose.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What emotions does the idea of the fear of God evoke in you?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Matthew 10:16-33 and Matthew 25:31-46. How does Jesus' message about fearing God add texture and meaning to message of Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.
4. Read Exodus 33:17-23 and Exodus 20:18-20. How do these passages add texture and meaning to the message about fearing God in Ecclesiastes.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why can we trust God?