

PROVERBS SERIES EIGHTEEN
THE FEAR OF THE LORD
Dr. Roger Barrier
Proverbs 9:10;10:27;14:16,26-27;15:33;19:23;28:14

Today is our last sermon from the Book of Proverbs. I hope you have enjoyed the study. Next week Glenn and I will begin a most significant study on what *Closing The Gap*—from where we are in our Christian lives to where God and we would like to be—might look like. We don't want to leave the book of Proverbs without a deep understanding of the godly lifestyle described in the book as *The Fear Of The Lord*. (Tapes and CDs of today's message are available immediately after the service on the Plaza at the Shepherd's Heart Ministry Table.)

Proverb 9:10: "The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"—but it is not the end.

The "Fear of the Lord" sounds like a negative thing. But, according to the Word of God, it is the best living that can happen to us. It is the lifestyle we all really want. It beats all the options.

Read in rapid succession the following verses and decide whether or not you might want to live out "The Fear of the Lord" Lifestyle.

Proverb 9:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverb 10:27: The fear of the LORD adds length to life.

Proverb 28:14: Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD,
but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

Proverb 15:33: The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom.

Proverb 14:16: A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil.

Proverb 14:26: He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress.
and for his children it will be a refuge.

Proverb 14:27: The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
turning a man from the snares of death.

Proverb 19:23: The fear of the LORD leads to life:
Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Does that not describe the kind of life you might like to have? The "Fear of the Lord" is a great lifestyle. The opposite is not so nice.

Proverb 4:18-19: The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn,
shining ever brighter till the full light of day.
But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know what makes them stumble.

THE LIFESTYLE THAT BEGINS WITH FEAR ENDS UP IN PERFECT LOVE.

1 John 4:18: There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

BUT, THE LIFESTYLE DOES BEGIN WITH FEAR. WHAT MIGHT THIS WORD “FEAR” MEAN?
HOW MIGHT FEAR BE EXPERIENCED AT THE BEGINNING?

Isaiah 6
Matthew 14:22-33
Luke 5:1-11
John 18:1-9

Because God is holy He hates sin.

Proverb 6:16-19
Proverb 3:32
Proverb 16:5
Proverb 21:12
Proverb 1:29-33

Don't tread lightly here. This is serious business. If we are living life on our own, we are rejecting life in the Spirit. We need to partner with God before we start to feel the heat.

WHAT MIGHT THE FEAR OF THE LORD LIFESTYLE LOOK LIKE IN MY LIFE?

There is nothing to be afraid of here. This is the kind of lifestyle we all want to enjoy.

“The Fear Of The Lord” Is A Life Lived With Knowledge And Wisdom.

Proverb 9:10
Proverb 16:6
Proverb 2:6-7

The first step in receiving God's wisdom is receiving Jesus Christ.

“The Fear Of The Lord” Is A Life Of Goodness and Rightness.

Proverb 14:16
Proverb 14:2

“The Fear Of The Lord” Is A Life Of Security and Protection.

Proverb 14:26
Proverb 3:25-26

“The Fear Of The Lord” Is A Life Of Peace And Contentment.

Proverb 19:23
Proverb 15:16

“The Fear Of The Lord” Is A Life Worthy Of Praise.

Proverb 31:30

“The Fear Of The Lord” Is Indelibly Linked With The Sovereign God In Charge Of Everything.

Proverb 16:4
Proverb 19:21
Proverb 21:1

WHAT MIGHT EXPERIENCING PERFECT LOVE FEEL LIKE?