

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU'LL WANT IT

A. I've entitled this message "If you know what's good for you, you'll want it." The "it" I'm referring to is the fear of God. Now, I could give you many reasons for saying "It's good for you to fear God."

B. In the last message, we noted that one reason we should fear God is because of who and what God is – He is so great and awesome that He is worthy of being feared.

1. In this message I want to expand on another reason for fearing God, a reason that is often overlooked and even denied by some.

2. Scripture tells us we should fear God because the fear of God is good and beneficial for us.

3. Sometime ago, I went through the Bible and looked up every verse on the fear of God.

C. The Bible is filled with incredible promises to the person who fears God.

1. In chapter 1 of my book, "Your Family God's Way," I've listed twenty-two benefits that come to the person who fears God; twenty-two things that God promises to the person who fears Him.

2. That list is not exhaustive, only suggestive. In this message, we don't have time to even consider all of the twenty-two I've listed in that book. I do, however, want to point you to a few of them with the encouragement to you to personally do a more thorough study.

3. Take out a concordance and look up every reference to the fear of God. You'll be surprised at how many Bible references there are to this subject. I also encourage you to read John Bunyan's rather exhaustive study on the fear of God. In that study (available in the complete works of John Bunyan published by Banner of Truth Press) you'll be amazed and blessed by Bunyan's reminders of the numerous blessings that come to people who fear God.

T. S. – Well, what are some of the benefits that come to the person who fears God?

I. The Psalms and the book of Proverbs are replete with statements about the positive value of the fear of God.

A. Psalm 25, for example, is a good place to start in that it describes several of the benefits that come to the person who fears God. Verse 12 begins by asking the question, "Who is the man who fears the Lord?"

B. But there's more about the benefits of fearing God in this Psalm. Verse 13

tells us that the soul of the person who fears God “will abide in prosperity” or as the margin of the NASV indicates “his soul will abide in good.”

C. Continuing on in verse 13, we are specifically reminded of the blessings that come to the descendants of a God fearing person. “His descendants will inherit the land.” or as the margin of the NASV indicates, the word “land” could be translated “earth”.

D. Turning to Psalm 112 we find the same theme being reiterated. The Psalm begins with the words, “Praise the Lord!”

1. Verse 1 then goes on to give a general reason why people who fear God should praise the Lord.

2. Then, becoming more specific about the blessings God fearers enjoy, the God inspired writer reminds us again of the way a God fearing person will affect his children and their children. “His descendants will be mighty on the earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed” (Psalm 112:2)

E. Psalm 128:1-4 also emphasizes the benefits that come to the descendants of God-fearing people: “How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord ...Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, your children like olive plants around your table. Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed who fear the Lord.”

E. “The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him.” is the way that the NASV translates the beginning of Psalm 25:14.

F. Psalm 31:19-20 is another passage describing the blessings that come to the person who fears God. “How great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast stored up for those who fear Thee, which Thou has wrought for those to take refuge in Thee, Thou dost hide them in the secret place of Thy presence from the conspiracies of man; Thou dost shelter them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues.”

G. But there are still other reasons why fearing God is good for you - Psalm 112 elaborates on some of them.

CONCLUSION:

A. Can you see from all of this why I've entitled this message – If you know what's good for you, you'll want it, meaning of course that you will want to develop and sustain a healthy, wholesome, vital fear of God.

1. So far, in this series of messages on fear, I have spoken much about the destructiveness of the wrong kind of fear and I have talked about how to overcome this wrong kind of fear.

2. Basically and repeatedly, we have stated that if you want to overcome the wrong kind of fear you must develop the right kind of fear.

B. My prayer is that by this time you have been convinced by the overwhelming Scriptural evidence that the fear of God is reasonable and that it is beneficial.

DISCUSSION/STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does Jeremiah 32:29 teach about the fear of God?
2. Why is this study of the benefits of the fear of God woefully inadequate?
3. What promise is given in Psalm 25:12?
4. In specific terms, what is being promised in this verse?
5. Why is what this verse promises such a beneficial thing?
6. What attitudinal, emotional and behavioral difference should this promise make in your own life and family?
7. To whom and for whom is this promise intended?
8. What promise is given in Psalm 25:13a?
9. In specific terms, what is being promised in this verse?
10. Give some biblical examples of what it means to have a wealthy soul.
11. Why is what this verse promises such a beneficial thing?
12. What attitudinal, emotional and behavioral difference should this promise make in your own life and family?
13. To whom and for whom was this promise given?
14. What promise is given in Psalm 25:13b?
15. In specific terms, what is being promised in this verse?
16. Why is what this verse promises such a beneficial thing?
17. List several other passages in which the same benefits are mentioned.
18. What attitudinal, emotional and behavioral difference should this promise make in your own life and family?
19. To whom and for whom was this promise given?
20. What promise is given in Psalm 25:14?

21. In specific terms, what is being promised in this verse?
22. Why is what this verse promises such a beneficial thing?
23. Why does the teaching of this verse seem almost blasphemous or irreverent?
24. How do we know it isn't blasphemous to believe what this verse indicates?
25. What attitudinal, emotional and behavioral difference should this promise make in your own life and family?
26. To whom and for whom was this promise given?
27. What promise is given in Psalm 31:19 and 20?
28. In specific terms, what is being promised in these verses?
29. Why is what this verse promises such a beneficial thing?
30. What attitudinal, emotional and behavioral difference should this promise make in your own life and family?
31. To whom and for whom was this promise given?
32. What promises are given in Psalm 112:3, 4, 5 and 6b?
28. In specific terms, what is being promised in these verses?
29. Why is what these verses promise such a beneficial thing?
30. What attitudinal, emotional and behavioral difference should these promises make in your own life and family?
31. To whom and for whom was this promise given?
32. What promises are given in Psalm 112:6a, 7 and 8?
28. In specific terms, what is being promised in these verses?
29. Why is what these verses promise such a beneficial thing?
30. What attitudinal, emotional and behavioral difference should these promises make in your own life and family?

31. To whom and for whom was this promise given?

32. How have you personally been affected by this study?