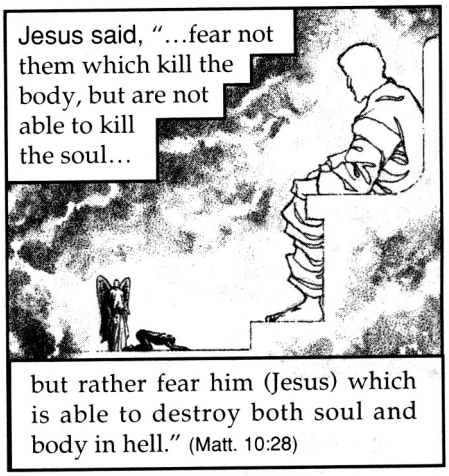
"Teens need the FEAR of the LORD"

Matthew 10:28 and Selected Scriptures

10/10/08



INTRODUCTION:

Christians should not fear:

1. Man (Prov. 29:25)
2. Physical circumstances (Mt. 8:26)
3. Death (Heb. 2:14-15)

Christians should fear God -

The fear of the Lord is "clean" (Ps. 119:9)

1. A fear of respect
   Ps. 112:1; Mal. 1:6; Luke 12:4-5; I Pet. 2:7; Rev. 14:7
2. A fear of displeasing Him
   II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 6:5; Phil. 2:12; I Pet. 1:17

All of Life's responsibilities can be reduced to a simple axiom:
"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God**, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man." Eccles. 12:13

The FEAR of the LORD is a Profound Respect for Who God is and What He can do to you.

**** God is WORTHY OF RESPECT!***

I. Christ's Serious Admonition to Fear the LORD *(Matthew 10:28)*

II. The Spiritual Benefits of Fearing the LORD

A. When you FEAR the LORD… You GAIN WISDOM *(Proverbs 9:10)*

B. When you Fear the LORD…You HATE SIN (Prov.8:13; 16:6)

C. When you Fear the LORD…You EXPERIENCE BLESSING
Proverbs 10:27; 14:26; 14:27; 19:23; 22:4; Eccles. 8:12

D. When you FEAR the LORD…You <u>WALK HUMBLY</u>

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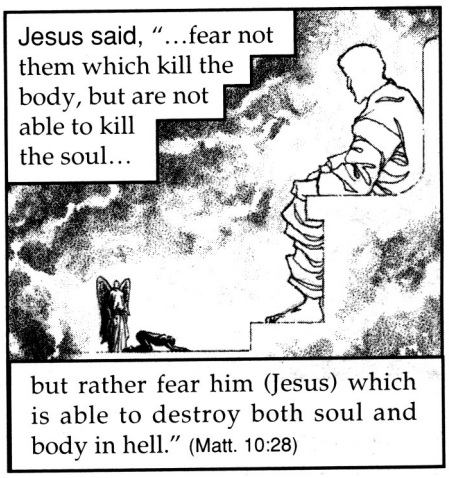

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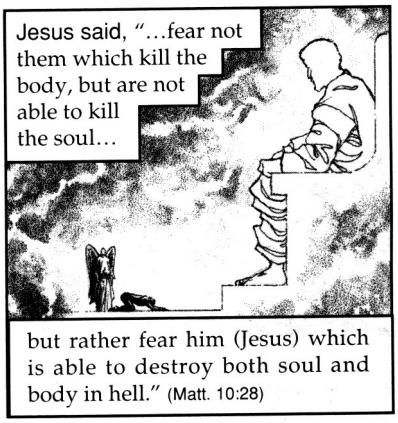

INTRODUCTION:

All of us at one point or another have feared:

--persecution
--unpopularity
--hardship
--ridicule
--conflict
--confrontation
--rejection
--threats

Christians should not fear:

1. Man (Prov. 29:25)
   Fear hinders believers from speaking about Christ (Jn. 7:13).
   Fear has been the cause for "secret" believers (Jn. 19:38).

2. Physical circumstances (Mt. 8:26)

3. Death (Heb. 2:14-15)

Christians should fear <u>God</u> -

The fear of the Lord is "<u>clean</u>" (Ps. 119:9)

1. A fear of <u>respect</u>
   Ps. 112:1; Mal. 1:6; Luke 12:4-5; I Pet. 2:7; Rev. 14:7

2. A fear of <u>displeasing Him</u>
   II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 6:5; Phil. 2:12; I Pet. 1:17

One of the biggest problems (even among some Christians today) is a lack of a fear of God. Verses from Proverbs on *"the fear of the Lord"*: Prov. 1:7, 3:7, 8:13, 9:10, 14:16, 15:16, 16:6, 23:17.

***"Fear God" (1 Peter 2:17)* -** we must continually live in reverence for God (*"holy and reverend is His name"* - Ps. 111:9).

Stand in awe of God! (Ps. 33:8 - *"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.")*

The highest authority (God) deserves the highest respect.

Heb. 12:28-29

Rev. 14:7
Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Having a "fear of God" is to fear <u>disobeying</u> Him and to fear <u>displeasing</u> Him.

All of Life's responsibilities can be reduced to a simple axiom:
"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God**, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man." Eccles. 12:13

The FEAR of the LORD is a Profound Respect for Who God is and What He can do to you.

**** God is <u>WORTHY OF RESPECT</u>!***

A New Testament Fear Factor:
*Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and **walking in the fear of the Lord**, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied. Acts 9:31*

I. Christ's Serious Admonition to Fear the LORD

Matthew 10:28
And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

***"Them"* -** unbelievers (perhaps instigated by Satan)

"People can kill the body" - (not outside of God's sovereign control, however - Deut. 32:39; Mt. 10:29-31) ***"but after that* [they] *have no more that they can do"*** (Lk. 12:4)

Any harm man does is only temporary.

Satan can't touch the soul.

He himself will be helplessly cast into hell, he sends no one there.

***"Rather fear him"* -** Fear God (not Satan). It is God (specifically, Jesus Christ who holds the *"keys of hell and of death"* (Rev. 1:18)

The word ***"fear"*** means not only to have a reverence (respect) for God (because of who He is) but also to tremble before Him; to be terrified by him (because of what He can do) (II Cor. 5:11)

God is to be feared.

Deut. 6:13 - *"Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve Him, and shalt swear by his name."*

I Sam. 12:24 - *"Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart, for consider how great things He hath done for you."*

Ps. 33:8 - *"Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."*

Eccles. 12:13 - *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."*

I Pet. 2:17 - *"Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."*

Rev. 14:7 - *"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."*

Rev. 15:4 - *"Who shall not fear thee, O lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."*

Fearing God takes faith today! (one day it will not! - Rev. 6:16-17)

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10)

The most spiritual people in history had this testimony, that they feared God.

--Joseph feared God (Gen. 42:18)
--The 70 elders of Israel were chosen because they feared God (Ex. 18:21)
--Job feared God (Job 1:9)
--The virtuous woman feared God (Prov. 31:30)

The person who fears God will:

--delight in God's Word (Ps. 112:1- *"Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments."*)

--walk in God's ways (Ps. 128:1 - *"Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways"*; cp. Prov. 14:2 - *"He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him."*)

--be blessed (Ps. 128:4 - *"Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD"*; Ecc. 8:12 - *"Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him;"*)

--be taught God's will (Ps. 25:12 - *"What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose."*)

This statement teaches us these truths:

1) Man is not merely a "body"

2) What matters most is what happens after death. Losing one's soul is to lose all (Mk. 8:36-37)

3) God is to be feared, not man

4) God decides where you will spend eternity

"Destroy" - not annihilation; but <u>removal</u> from the presence of God. To perish; to give our to eternal torment and misery (the same word is used of demons who fear this destruction - Lk. 4:34)

Paul uses this word to speak of *"<u>eternal</u> destruction"* (II Th. 1:9)

"the soul" - the word is often used synonymously with "spirit" (as here)

The soul is that immaterial part of man that gives him life, and that lives forever!

"Soul and body" - the "body" will one day be reunited to the soul at the resurrection of the unjust (Jn. 5:29; Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:5)

"In hell" - not "hades" but "Gehenna" = meaning the "Lake of Fire" (cp. Rev. 20:15; 21:8)

"Gehenna" refers to a place of burning.

II. The Spiritual Benefits of Fearing the LORD

Wisdom from Proverbs about the FEAR of the LORD

A. When you FEAR the LORD… You GAIN WISDOM

Proverbs 9:10
The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

Why?

One who fears God **Listens** Intently to His Word and thereby gains wisdom for Learning (Prov.1:7; 2:5)

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

Proverbs 2:5
Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

One who fears God **Obeys** His Word and thereby gains wisdom for Living

Psalm 111:10
The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments:* his praise endureth for ever.

B. When you Fear the LORD…You HATE SIN (Prov.8:13; 16:6)

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

C. When you Fear the LORD…You <u>EXPERIENCE BLESSING</u>

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

Proverbs 14:26
In the fear of the Lord *is* strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Proverbs 14:27
The fear of the Lord *is* a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

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.

Eccles. 8:12
Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

D. When you FEAR the LORD…You <u>WALK HUMBLY</u>

Matthew 10:28
And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

1. Such humility leads to **Salvation** for the lost

"Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear, as grace my fears relieved" (John Newton in <u>Amazing Grace</u>)

No one flees from the wrath to come and into the arms of Jesus Christ who does not first have a fear of God. (cp. Matthew 3:7)

2. Such humility leads to **Sanctification** for the saved.

Note: When you respect God you will also respect the authorities that God has placed over you

- <u>Government officials</u> Rom. 13:1ff; Prov. 24:21
- <u>Your parents</u> Lev. 19:3; Mt. 15:4
- <u>Your husband</u> Eph. 5:33; I Pet. 3:6

Note: When you respect God you will also fear that which God warns us about

- <u>Sin</u>:

a. Fear what sin can do to your life (Acts 5:5, 11; Prov. 3:7)
b. Fear what sin can do to others (Jude 23)

- <u>Judgment</u>:

II Cor. 5:10, 11; Heb. 10:30, 31