

LOVE, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FEAR

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13/6/15

God is righteous. God is right. He can by His nature do nothing wrong.

God is Love. He is merciful, patient, righteous. He cannot overlook or pretend He didn't see wrongdoing. He cannot tolerate evil. He will ultimately deal with all wickedness ... all evil ... all sin. He will punish every evil.

And yet ... people tend to overlook this righteous God.

John 3:16

For God ("in this manner" ... talking about the serpent being raised up in the wilderness etc ... Num 21:4-9) so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (and continues to believe) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This doesn't mean that He has a "warm, fuzzy feeling" for mankind. He does not!! Look at the following verse:

John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

One day it will not simmer any longer ... but boil over ... in the day of wrath that is coming. That is part of the Gospel.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the

lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, **and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**

Prior to our calling, we were nature ... children of wrath ... with God's wrath hovering over us. **Amplified: We were then by nature children of [God's] wrath and heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind.**

Psalms 5:4-6

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness,

Nor shall evil dwell with You.

The boastful shall not stand in Your sight;

You hate all workers of iniquity.

You shall destroy those who speak falsehood;

The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of **the righteous judgment of God**, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since **it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you**, (God will deal with those who persecute His people) and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction (final, complete) from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

GOD WATCHES ... AND THE RECORD IS THERE.

Romans 2:4-10

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? **But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,** who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality; **but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil,** of the Jew first and also of the Greek; **but glory, honour, and peace to everyone who works what is good,** to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 11:22

Therefore **consider the goodness and severity of God:** on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Today, we are moving on to the related topic of Fear. We should have a real fear of God.

Romans 11:17-22

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” Well said. **Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.** For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. **Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God:** on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Hopefully, we will continue ... until the end. We could lose it all ... and it is possible. We have to be careful and not get sloppy.

In our society, we tolerate anything and everything. There isn't much respect in our society. It is no way to treat a Holy Righteous God. Essentially, there is no fear of God in the society in any country ... anywhere.

Romans 3:10-18

As it is written:

"There is none righteous, no, not one;

There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one."

"Their throat is an open tomb;

With their tongues they have practiced deceit";

"The poison of asps is under their lips";

"Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."

"Their feet are swift to shed blood;

Destruction and misery are in their ways;

And the way of peace they have not known."

"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

THEY DON'T FEAR GOD!!

Our governments, in the main, **DO NOT FEAR GOD!!**

The church/churches don't fear God either.

Proverbs 9:10

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

No fear of God ... NO WISDOM!!

How do we start? The fear of The Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Proverbs 16:6

In mercy and truth

Atonement is provided for iniquity;

And **by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.**

Proverbs 23:17-18

Do not let your heart envy sinners,

But **be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day;**

For surely there is a hereafter,

And your hope will not be cut off.

Jeremiah 5:20-25

"Declare this in the house of Jacob

And proclaim it in Judah, saying,

'Hear this now, O foolish people,

Without understanding,

Who have eyes and see not,

And who have ears and hear not:

Do you not fear Me?' says the Lord.

"Will you not tremble at My presence,

Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea,

By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it?

And though its waves toss to and fro,

Yet they cannot prevail;

Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart;

They have revolted and departed.

They do not say in their heart,

"Let us now fear the Lord our God,

Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season.

He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

Your iniquities have turned these things away,

And your sins have withheld good from you.

Are things different in The New Testament? If you are covered by The Blood of The Lamb ... you are okay.

Matthew 10:23-28

When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

"Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

God can terminate you eternally. Don't forget the consequences of the choices you are making.

Luke 12:4-5

"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

FEAR GOD. He is a righteous judge.

Hebrews 2:1-3

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at

the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”

Therefore

“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”

“I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Hebrews 12:18-19

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore.

Hebrews 12:21-22

And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

Hebrews 12:24-29

to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may **serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.** For our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 10:26-31

For if we sin willfully (chosen lifestyle) after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? **For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people."** **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

God will reward good and will punish all evil.

We should fear God. Not an unhealthy, cringing nervousness that would cause us to draw back ... but a healthy fear ... similar to deep awe and reverence ... but a little bit more. There should be a healthy recognition that a righteous God will deal with all evil, sin and wrongdoing. A healthy genuine fear should help motivate us to take our calling and election seriously.