

1. Last week I taught in part Col 3:22 and when time expired we were about to analyze the phrase "fearing God."
2. Before we continue you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
3. Let's take a look at an expanded translation of Col 3:18-21 and then return to our analysis of verse 22.

Col 3:18 Wives you must get under the authority of your husbands just as it has been proper and fit in the past with the result it is now the thing to do and it has to be a moment by moment process performed as your reasonable service in the Lord.

Col 3:19 Husbands you must love your wives and it is imperative that you not become bitter nor act harshly toward them.

Col 3:20 Children you must obey your parents for this is pleasing and acceptable conduct in the eyes of the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, you must not antagonize your children lest they lose heart and become discouraged.

4. So far we have exegeted that portion of Col 3:22 which in the KJV has been rendered "*Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart ...*" noting it might better be translated "**Slaves, you must in all things obey your earthly owners, not just when the boss is looking and not as self-seeking sycophants but as honest hard working servants ...**"

5. Let's see how our entire verse looks in the KJV.

KJV-New Sentence

Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;

6. Now we are ready for the phrase "fearing God."

FEARING GOD; φοβεω ο Κυριος

1. **Phobeo Ho Kurios** is better translated "fearing and respecting the Lord."
2. **Phobeo** is a verb parsed as present middle participle followed by the monadic noun **Kurios**, declined as an accusative singular.
3. Let's review what the Bible has to say about fear by looking at our Doctrine of Fear and Respect.

Doctrine of Fear and Respect

1. What the Bible teaches about fear is (in a sense) enigmatic.
2. We are told to fear God and yet we are also told perfect love casteth out all fear. C. S. Lewis provides, in his own special way, an answer to the dilemma. How can you fear God, and yet confidently trust Him for your every need?
3. In his book The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe he writes of two children searching for their brother, who is under the spell of a wicked witch. They are desperate for help when they hear that the Lion King of Narnia is on the move. The Lion in his book is symbolic of Christ the God-man. The children both fear and respect the Lion King hoping He might help them, one of the children, says, "Ooh!" said Susan, "Is he safe? I feel quite nervous about meeting a lion." "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good.' He's the King ..." Christ as the Lion of Judah is quite the companion, strong, bold, perfect and devoted to His pride but better yet, my Christian friend, He is Good!
 - 3.1 The more we surrender to fear, the more things we will fear.
 - 3.2 The more things we surrender to fear, the greater our capacity for fear.
 - 3.3 The greater our capacity for fear, the more we increase the power of fear in our life.
 - 3.4 The more we increase the power of fear in our life, the harder it becomes to grow in His grace.
 - 3.5 Fear can be a sin or an evil in our life. Fear, as a sin, can be handled easily, just name it to God and move on. Fear, which becomes evil, is another matter.
 - 3.6 If we let the sin of fear stick around, it will become an evil, a terrible mental attitude sin which is both irrational and irresponsible; and thus, a terrible distraction, breeding failure and unhappiness.
 - 3.7 That man should fear and respect God is an established principle. In one sense, however, as His prized possession, the regenerate man with doctrine should bask in the fact that God is our shield and our very great reward. In another sense God is not to be mocked or tempted. Gen 15:1

Gen 15:1 After his deliverance of Lot, the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, **Fear** not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

 - 3.7.1 Reversionary man, in contrast, is like an animal left to provide for himself in fear, protected from death, but left to live as an object of God's discipline. Lot feared to travel the way God directed. Gen 19:17-19

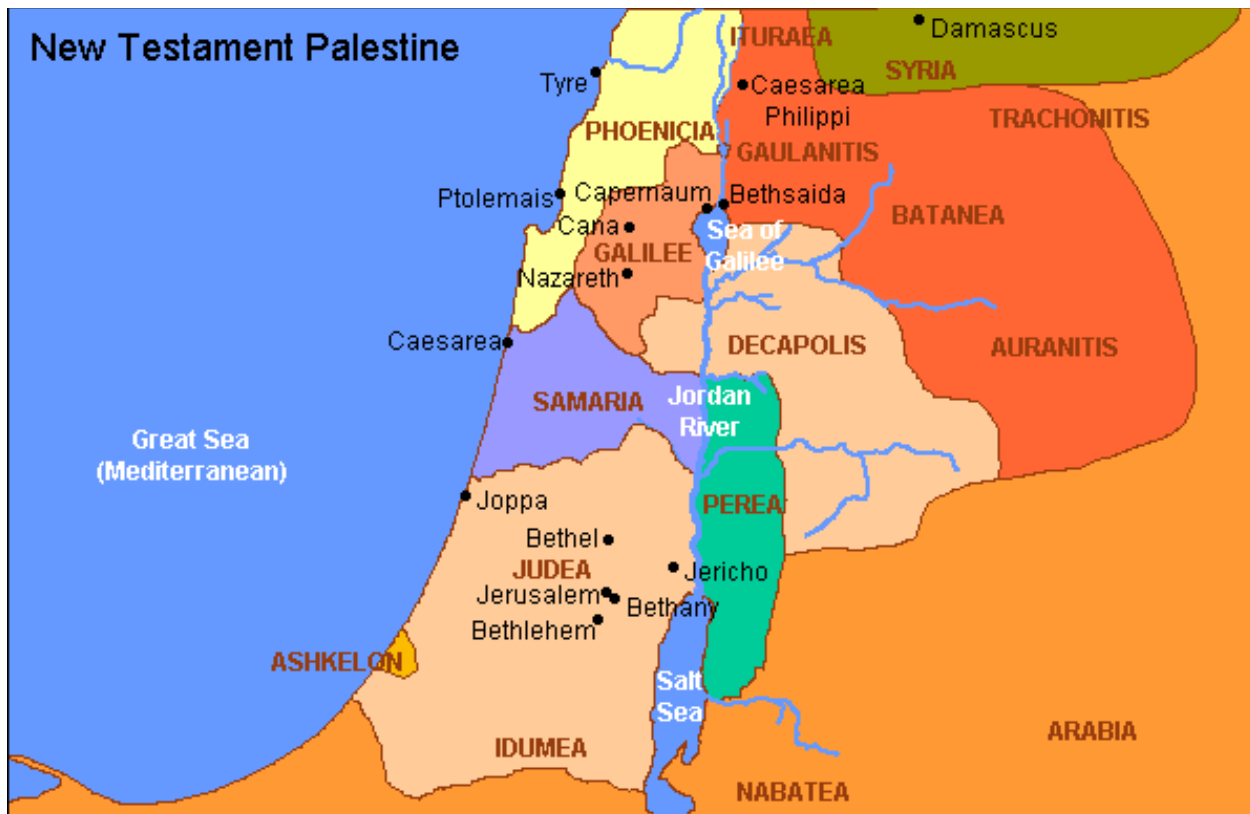
Gen 19:17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

Gen 19:18 But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please!

Gen 19:19 Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains of Zoar; this **disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.**

3.8 The closing chapter in the career of Lot is a pitiful period of fear and incest.

3.9 Lot found himself evicted from his city of choice to live in fear of God and man. Zoar is a city located on the south shore of the Dead sea, its king had been one of the kings who had earlier captured Lot, requiring Abraham to rescue both him and his family.



3.10 Lot and his family failed miserably. Disaster, disgrace, despair, and death are written in their epitaph.

3.11 On his tombstone an appropriate inscription might have been: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal 6:7

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**

3.12 The fear, and the dread of appearing before a Holy God, is eliminated-or ought to be-in the life of a believer. Rom 8:1 and 33, 1Jo 4:18

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...
Rom 8:33 Who will bring a charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ***The answer from the Greek syntax is "of course not."***

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

3.13 A fear and reverence for God is one of the requirements of a leader. It was one of the requisites given to Moses as a character requirement. Leaders may fear, but it is what they do with fear that is important. Exo 18:21, Rom 8:34

Exo 18:21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, **such as fear God**, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

Rom 8:34 **Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus**, who died, more than that, who was raised to life, and is at the right hand of God interceding for us. **Certainly not.**

3.14 The Scriptures speak of the following kinds of fear:

3.15 A holy fear which amounts to awe or respect for the majesty and holiness of God. Said another way: a deep and abiding respect because we know of His essence and attributes, but it has to be learned. Psa 34:11

Psa 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the **fear** of the LORD.

3.15.1 David speaks of a fear which is clean and pure; one which creates joy in the heart and light to the eyes. Psa 19:8-9

Psa 19:8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psa 19:9 The **fear** of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

3.16 The Bible, in several places, speaks of a reverential fear which is the basis or beginning of all true wisdom. Joy goes hand in hand with confidence on the road to happiness. Christians are to be joyful as we await the ecstatic and ultimate felicity and bliss at the end of our journey.

3.17 The writer of Pro 1:7 and Psa 111:10 both agree that fear and respect of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Pro 1:7 The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom

and instruction.

Psa 111:10 The **fear** of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding ...

3.18 Reverential fear provides respect for God's authorities; such respect will be seen by others as a good witness. Others may want what you have. Psa 2:11, Pro 8:13, 2Co 7:1, Phi 2:12

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with **fear**, and rejoice with trembling.

Pro 8:13 To **fear** the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the **fear** of God.

Phi 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with **fear** and trembling.

3.19 We are to fear secular authority, for each has been established as God's agent to facilitate peace and prosperity within the nation. Rom 13:1-5

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. **Wilt thou then not be afraid** of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Rom 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, **be afraid**; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Rom 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

3.20 Such a fear is proper, but there is an insensate dread which should not be a part of our make up, i.e., "worry or anxiety without cause." Num 14:9, Heb 13:6 and 1Pe 2:18

Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And **do not be afraid** of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. **Do not be afraid** of them."

Heb 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not **fear** what man shall do unto me.

1Pe 2:18 Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all **fear and respect**, not only

to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

3.21 Discipline from the Lord is very often painful, but always perfect; it is done in love, God knows our frame and therefore provides that which is needed. Rom 8:28 compared with 1Th 5:18

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

3.21.1 A believer's fear of discipline and reverential respect for God should be parlayed into a productive walk with God. A walk with God can only be accomplished by means of the consistent use of the two power options. Discipline must not be feared but approached as an "opportunity to learn." Pro 3:12, Heb 12:6-8, Rev 3:19-20

End Lesson Taught 7-28-10