



UNTO GOD

jumping off the homeschool bandwagon

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I.	Unto God	1
II.	The Fear of God	2
III.	The Word of God	4
IV.	Separation from the World	6
V.	A Goal of Education	7
VI.	Elements of Education	8
VII.	Making Scripture Central	9
VIII.	A Narrow Way	10
IX.	A Study on the Fear of God	10

Did anyone notice? I'm a boiling frog?¹ Perhaps you're one too.

Here's the scoop.

I've embraced teaching each of our six children at home. None of them have attended public school.² It has been one more way for my wife and I to live a separated and obedient life unto God while living in this present world. In the process we jumped on the homeschool bandwagon.

We found the homeschool movement much to our liking. In its early years the movement focused on living a separated life unto God and teaching from Scripture. This gradually changed, and this is where the frog begins to boil. A major shift took place. Unlimited resources became available, the internet opened up new doors, and a number of "authorities" rose up to lead. Essentially what happened was that the teaching of our children was taken out of the hands of the parents, the Bible, and God as we flowed with the homeschool current, following the advice of others and books instead of the dictates of our conscious. In the beginning homeschooling was about conviction and conscious before God. Now it appears we are concerned with methods and structures, thanks to the latest homeschool pundit. The homeschool waters we were in were heating up.

The direction we were led was away from a Scripture-based foundation and the teachings of God and toward a "good" education and a character based foundation established on the principles of Scripture. We shifted from searching out and understanding the knowledge that God has given, to teaching "principles" and moral lessons from the Bible.

¹ If you put a frog in a kettle filled with cool water and then gradually turn up the heat until the water boils, the frog will not notice that it is being boiled alive until it is too late. The frog is aware of sudden threats, but not gradual threats to its survival. It is the slow changes we need to watch out for, not the sudden.

² As of 2007 Rebekah is 21; Christine, 19; Rachel, 17; Daniel, 15; Steven, 9; and Michael, 7.

I have to admit, it is easier to teach principles and morals than to take the time to understand the knowledge that God has given and the purpose for which He has given it.

As the homeschool movement continued to focus on “good” education and character building, the Scripture became less and less the primary text book and became equal to and often subservient to other books. Instead of drawing history, language, reading, science, character, and faith from God’s own words, we began to rely upon other sources. The great classics and movies and books of yesteryear became our texts. The teaching of our children shifted from a Scripture-based to a Greek-based³ foundation where the focus was upon wisdom from any source with the Scripture attached as one book among many. I am often amazed at how, with great pride, many homeschoolers will boast of their vast libraries of “great” books *deficient* of true Scripture knowledge. Much like setting down at a banquet table of junk food: great looking and great tasting, but devoid of any nutritional value. The waters of the homeschool movement are boiling.

As I felt the heat around me, I was haunted by a professor and a movie. The professor was Professor Feinstein.⁴ He would encourage his students to pursue a strong liberal arts education regardless of the degree they would eventually receive because of its focus on critical thinking and the classics. He pointed out that the great men and women of this world were mostly people with a liberal arts background. Of course, I was troubled when I realized that these same men and women were mostly unchristian and liberal in their thinking. I am now troubled when I realize this is the path the homeschool movement has traveled. I do not like the boil I now feel.

The movie that haunted me was *Time Changer*. This movie does an excellent job portraying what happens to a culture focused on teaching morals without the fear of God. Teaching good character does not produce righteousness ; embracing the fear of God does. The Greeks established their place in history through wisdom . This begs the question, why, then, did they crumble internally from moral decay? And wasn’t this the fate of the wisest man of all—Solomon—moral depravity? The bottom line is: principle, moral, and character teaching does not transform the spirit. Our goal is not to teach just any knowledge, but to teach that knowledge given to us by God. The homeschool waters boils rapidly as we teach a classical education and character without Christ or with the Scriptures merely attached. It is time to turn things around (repent) and do the first works (restore a Scriptural foundation). We will now proceed to look at the necessary foundation stones for re-laying a Scripture-based education.

II. THE FEAR OF GOD

Here is the chief foundation stone for education. Without the fear of God parents will not make the knowledge that God has given first priority. Instead, parents will teach a classical, critical thinking, principles based curriculum.

³ Using the term Greek-based, I am referring to a focus on wisdom that is not drawn out from the study of the Bible, but based on principles of wisdom from various sources whether Christian or otherwise.

⁴ Professor Feinstein received his Doctorates in Philosophy and Psychology. He taught at Temple University and the Community College of Philadelphia in the 1980’s.

The fear of God presupposes an entity that is actual and can be known. Before we can fear Him and obey His commands, we must ask ourselves several foundational questions, which are very old questions. Do we believe there is an actual God who designed and created us and all that is in the universe? Do we believe that God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge? Do we believe that God has given to mankind all the knowledge that is needed for this life and the eternal life to come? If we truly say yes to these questions, how then can we not make Scripture the primary text book for education? How can we not make the knowledge that God has handed down to us first priority?

Scripture is clear that true knowledge, wisdom, and understanding cannot be received except through God (Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10; Job 12:13). All knowledge and understanding comes from God's mouth (Proverbs 2:6) and is hid in Him (Colossians 2:3). The bottom line is that there is no other source for wisdom and knowledge except from God. He is the source and supplier from which all true wisdom flows. Any wisdom or knowledge that comes from any other source, originated first with God. Do you see where we are going? All other books, with their moral lessons and great truths, have their source in Scripture, God's revealed knowledge to man. To teach a Scripture-based curriculum is to go to the original source—God—for our curriculum instead of refurbished and second hand wisdom. God commands us to teach His knowledge as He has handed it down; not a repackaging of His great truths.

God is the source and supplier of all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Do we truly believe this? If we do, then why do we make God submissive to or equal to human wisdom? Why is the Scripture not our primary text book?

To have the fear of God is to be terrified of God in such a way that we remove ourselves from what is not of Him and live in obedience to *Him*⁵ (Deuteronomy 5:29, 6:2). It does not mean we live in a cowering or trembling fear. It does mean that we recognize who *He* is and *His* great power. We recognize the consequence of not living to please God and will do whatever it takes to remain in obedience to Him. If we knew that a certain door in our house would open into a room full of poisonous snakes, we would live in such a fear of opening that door that we would keep it closed. As long as the door is closed we know we will not suffer the fatal consequence of a snake bite. Our fear of God is such that we know if we do not teach the knowledge that He has commanded us to teach then we must answer to Him. Imagine that your boss tells you to do your job in a certain way. Instead you choose to do it your way, which is opposite of his. What do you think would happen? Of course there would be consequences; therefore you live in fear of your boss by obeying his commands. This fear does not make your life miserable, and actually increases the quality of your life. To fear God is nothing more than living in obedience to His revealed teachings.

⁵ See Appendix 1 for a list of verses concerning the fear of God. Ask yourself if you diligently live in this fear as described in these verses?

Teaching our children to fear God is first priority. To have all wisdom and all knowledge without the fear of God is of no value or worth. The fear of God cannot be taught in a school setting, but only as parents live out the fear of God and teach this fear throughout the day in a life context. It is a lived out 24/7 responsibility.

For a study on the fear of God, see pages 10-13.

III. THE WORD OF GOD

Coupled with the fear of God is the Word of God. The Scripture is God's knowledge to man revealing all we need for this life and the life to come. To fear God is to live in obedience to Scripture and to teach this knowledge as first priority above all other. It is our responsibility to understand this knowledge in order to impart it to our children. Too many parents teach a classical and character based curriculum because they do not understand the Bible enough to teach history, language, reading, science, character, and faith from it; yet that is what we must do.

The Scripture is a record of the knowledge that God wants us to know. It is His voice to mankind. He is protective of His words and has promised to preserve His word for all generations (Psalm 12:6-7). It doesn't matter whether we lived in the days of Adam and Eve, Noah, King Saul, the Apostle Paul, or our twenty-first century, the word of God has been passed down from God. He has protected its integrity so that each generation may know Him and the knowledge He has given. The book we have today, known as the Bible, is God's word to our present age.⁶ The Bible is not a collection of writings composed from the imagination and ponderings of men. It is the collection of writings composed from a relationship with an actual God communicating with men so that what is recorded in the Bible are the writings of God to man (1 Timothy 3:16). If we truly understand that the Bible is God's actual, preserved, and protected word then there would be no conflict in making it the source and foundation for teaching our children history, language, reading, science, character, and faith. Do you realize we did this in the early days of schooling here in America from the 1700's through the mid 1800's? We can also do it today in our own home classroom.

When you consider that Scripture is a record of God's words to mankind, preserved and protected for our children today, it should never be placed on equal footing with any other writings. The Scripture is the source of all truth. Without it neither we nor our children will be able to correctly interpret the world through the lens of true knowledge. There is no book more important for education than Scripture, yet Scripture has taken a back seat to those written by men.

As the source of truth, the Bible does not contain the whole corpus of knowledge. It is not an encyclopedia where you go to look for the composition of the atom. It does give you the truth of the atom and through our understanding of God's creation, we then understand that everything that is seen (matter) was made by things which are not seen (atoms) (Hebrews 11:3). God gives to us the rudiments and concepts of all science and

⁶ The Hebrew Scriptures are the preserved and protected word of God. The King James Version is the tried and tested English version for our English speaking generation today.

all knowledge. It is up to us to search out and to understand these concepts through the things He has made (Proverbs 25:2; 28:11; Ecclesiastes 1:13). Even the deep and invisible things of God—His eternal power and Godhead—can be known through studying creation (Romans 1:20). After understanding the Scriptural concept for science, let us then go to others who have searched out this concept. If Charles Darwin would have used the Biblical concept for the creation of man, he would not have developed the theories he did. We go to Scripture to find the concept and then to other sources to expound the concept. Too often we teach concepts that we cannot verify whether they are Scriptural or not. As children of God, it is God’s knowledge we want to teach.

Herein is the problem with so much of our education: we are not able to bring out these Biblical concepts. Our children do not understand that Scripture has the answers for what has been transferred to science.⁷ We have transformed Scripture from the only history book of life and the only foundation for science given directly from God into a bunch of moral lessons and a panacea to help handle life. We have stripped it of its authority and placed it on equal footing with *Aesop’s Fables* and other moral, philosophical writings.

Somehow we have not understood the above concept and reasoned that if all truth is not recorded in the Bible then human knowledge is on equal footing with the Bible. We reasoned that it is o.k. to find truth even from heathen sources especially through what is known as the classical works (a fancy name to take captive our minds). We followed the path of our universities and placed the study of the classics on equal footing with the Bible. The problem is that human wisdom and understanding does not interpret the world from God’s perspective. The Apostle Paul warned not to embrace the world’s wisdom when he wrote: *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”* (Colossians 2:8). Also in 1 Corinthians 1:20-22 he writes: *“Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom”*

The homeschool movement has shifted from the Scripture as their main text to the Bible being equal to other books of wisdom and character training. Coupled with this shift was also the elevation of critical thinking. Critical thinking is simply using the human mind to come to a logical conclusion. Like money or sex, critical thinking has its rightful place. God even encouraged us to, *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD...”* (Isaiah 1:18). The problem is that critical thinking is made equal to or superior to God and removes us from relationship with God and toward communion with self. The problem is that critical thinking is as much a part of the things of this world as money and the physical senses. The great danger is that a person begins to trust his ability to draw “logical” conclusions instead of the living, personal God. We then begin to draw conclusions such as two people committed to each other can live together as man and wife without a marriage vow; abortion is o.k.; all religions lead to the same God; or a

⁷ An excellent book for bringing out many scientific concepts in the Bible is *Scientific Facts and Foreknowledge*. It may be seen in its entirety at www.understandthetimes.org/101scientific.shtml.

loving God would never create an eternal hell. When not filtered through the fear of God human reason quickly misrepresents Scripture.

Living in the fear of God keeps human reasoning in its proper place. Living in the fear of God is to live in relationship with the living God interacting with us. Through this interaction human logic is often disconnected from the reasoning process. For example, Eve brought sin into the world by not disconnecting from human logic and reasoned that the forbidden fruit was good to look upon, good to eat, and good to make one wise. How could something so good be so bad? When Noah built the ark, the earth had never experienced rain or even a rain cloud. There was no logical conclusion he could have drawn for building the ark. He built the ark against all human logic. What logic is there for a man to pack up all his belongings, all his family, and begin traveling toward a country he didn't know where it was or how to get there? Yet, against all human logic, that is what Abraham did. The Bible is filled with examples of men doing things against all reason and logic: dipping in a river seven times to be healed, marching around a city seven times to collapse the walls, coming against an army of thousands with only 300 men, choosing death instead of postponing prayer time for a short time, and the examples are many from Genesis through Revelation.

What caused each of these people to disconnect from human logic? It was their relationship with the living God. They recognized the reality of God and chose to trust His wisdom through His word. They recognized that if God said that a baby would be born to a really old couple past the age of child bearing, then they could trust His word. I do not need the assurance of knowing whether a decision is right or wrong or even possible if I rely on the one who is qualified to determine the outcome. I do not need the assurance that I can repair my car, if I know a mechanic.

In the education of our children, the goal is not to teach character or the wisdom of this world, but to teach the fear of God, obedience to His word, how to develop a relationship with Him, and how to trust Him against all human logic. Character and wisdom is the fruit of teaching the fear of God. Here's a really convicting thought: If you, as the parent, are not living in the fear of God, how will this fear be passed on to the children? Wouldn't they have the same conformed Christianity as you? Chances are, their Christianity will be more conformed and watered down. I once heard a man teach that what the parents do in moderation, the children will do in excess. We would do well to rethink the relationship we think we have with the God who created us. It is true that our children mimic what we are, not what we teach.

IV. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

As we live in obedience to Scripture, we then find that we live a life different from those around us. The reason for this is because the customs, ways, and behavior given by God are different from those who do not fear God. In the same way that a Chinese visiting America is not of the American people, having different manners, ways of life, customs, etc. that separates him from Americans, so are we separated people though we are in the world. Though I live in America, I strive to obey the directives of God's country in heaven.

The Scripture is clear that those who fear God are citizens of another country not of this earth: we are in reality citizens of heaven and not citizens of America. As such, we are in this world as strangers and pilgrims and are just passing through until we enter our eternal country (Hebrews 11:13; 13:14). Though we are in this world, with its different customs and ways of doing things, we live separate from these ways and live according to the directives of the country to which we belong (Colossians 3:1; Psalm 1:1-2). Our daily prayer and motivation is to conform to the directives of our distant home while living in this world (Luke 11:2). As a citizen of heaven, we seek to withdraw/separate from that which is incompatible with the laws and order of our heavenly home.

Scripture makes it clear that we are not to merge with the ways of this world, which would also include what is taught to our children. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 is clear that we are not to be *unequally yoked together with unbelievers*. Hebrews 7:26 encourages separation from sinners. 1 John 2:15-17 is strong in its admonition that, *If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*. There was a time when we used to follow the world's ways, but now we are learning to follow God's way through Christ (Ephesians 2:2). To live separate from the world does not mean total separation, which would require leaving this world (1 Corinthians 5:9-10), but not living according to the manners, customs, and traditions of the world. We are even encouraged to limit our use of the things of this world which are permitted to us (1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Galatians 5:23).

It is clear that when we fear God, we become a totally new person with a whole new way of doing things and living. We are called to live in the fear of God, live according to His word, and to live in separation to the world. This also includes how we educate our children. Education should be drawn from Scripture in order to teach our children the fear of God through obedience to His word and separation from this world.

V. A GOAL OF EDUCATION

The goal of education is to focus on that knowledge which is true and most important. When it is recognized that there is an actual God who passed down to mankind knowledge about our history and the world in which we live, then what He has made known becomes the most important knowledge that can be taught. This knowledge should govern our education and our education should advance the knowledge and fear of God.

As people who fear God, we acknowledge that Scripture is God's word to man, is the history of mankind, the foundation of science, and has everything we need for this life and the eternal life to come. How can a book of such great import not be central in the schooling of our children? How can it ever be made equal to any other book written? The convicting answer is that most parents do not know Scripture well enough to teach it as anything more than principles for living and helps through hard times.

VI. ELEMENTS OF EDUCATION

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 summarizes several necessary elements for teaching our children the fear of God, obedience to His word, and separation from the world:

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

ELEMENT ONE: *God’s knowledge is to be taught.*

Our obedience to Scripture reflects our fear of God. Those who disregard God have no desire to live according to His commands. The “words” that are referred to in Deuteronomy 6:6 are those commands just spoken by Moses in 5:1-33. They also include not only the Ten Commandments, but all the statutes and the judgments which God gave to the Israelites through Moses (Deuteronomy 6:1). They also include the testimonies of God and the doing of that which is right and good in God’s eyes (Deuteronomy 6:17-18). In our present dispensation of the New Covenant, these teachings would also include the writings of the prophets, apostles, and Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 3:11).

ELEMENT TWO: *The teachings must be lived out by the parent.*

Deuteronomy 6:7 makes it clear that God’s commandments must first be in the hearts of the parents: “...And these words...shall be in thine heart.”

God’s teachings are to be an engrafted part of our mind and spirit, united with our thoughts, attitudes, and behavior (James 1:21). Before the knowledge of God can be effectively passed on to our children, it must be lived out through the parents. When we teach one thing and do another, we encourage the development of a conformed doctrine. Verbally teaching our children to love others, but consistently expressing impatience, actually teaches that love has limits: a conformed Scriptural doctrine that does not teach love.

ELEMENT THREE: *God’s teachings are to be passed down from parent to child.*

Deuteronomy 6:7 is clear that we are to “teach [God’s commands] diligently unto [our] children.”

God’s knowledge is to be taught diligently, not half-hearted or attached to curriculum, but taught as if the God who designed and created us and all of creation has actually spoken to mankind about the existence of life and the ruling physical and spiritual laws operating in our universe. Look at these synonyms for diligent: meticulous, conscientious, thorough, attentive, and careful. Can we say that our teaching of God’s knowledge is diligent? In our fast food culture we too often give to our children a drive through packaged education.

ELEMENT FOUR: *Teaching God's knowledge is to be done in a life context.*

Deuteronomy 6:7 is clear that we are to teach God's commands and "shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

It is not a classroom setting or a pupil/teacher structure that God encourages, but a life context for our teaching. Whatever we are doing and wherever we are, our children are to be taught to live in conformity to God's laws. This instruction starts when we rise out of bed, sit around the house, going about our everyday business (housework, meal preparation, yard work, etc.), and when we lie down to go to bed. In this context God is not attached to life...God is life.

What God expects is contrary to our present structure of education which takes the student out of an experiential life context. This does not mean that a child has no instructional period, but the bulk of his teaching, especially in the younger years, revolves around everyday life which revolves around work. In this context a child is taught how to live in the fear of God, not by instruction, but by being an apprentice to the parent through life. By the time a child reaches their teen years, they are ready to start apprenticing in actual skills that prepare them for their life work and future family.

VII. MAKING SCRIPTURE CENTRAL

Teaching the knowledge given by God does not mean we need to live contrary to the requirements of state law. As I look over our Pennsylvania law for home education there is nothing required that would hinder an education based on God's commands. State law dictates what subjects must be taught, but does not dictate the curriculum to be used or how the material is to be presented.

In Pennsylvania, the law requires that we teach our elementary age children English spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, U.S. and Pennsylvania history, civics, health and physiology, physical education, music, art, geography, science, safety and fire prevention. These may be organized into three categories (the secondary level is in parenthesis):

1. Subjects taught directly from the Bible: English, spelling, reading, writing, civics, health, and physiology (English, science, world history, geography, civics, composition, health, safety).
2. Subjects requiring supplemental resources: arithmetic, US and PA history (language, literature, speech, algebra, geometry, fire prevention).
3. Subjects requiring instructors or self learning: physical education, music, and art (art, music, physical education)

VIII. A NARROW WAY

Teaching the knowledge that God has given is a narrow way since we determine to follow one course and not many for our teaching and our life—the way outlined by God. Following the narrow way means making choices which are not easy and may cause additional temporary hardships and even go against what we want or think is right or wrong. Often we must choose to go a certain direction only because we know it conforms to Scripture. Most of the time there will be no still small voice or circumstances coming together to confirm a decision, only a decision to be made based upon the written Word of God. We are commanded to choose to “...observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33). Even as Joshua, we must also muster the courage to live contrary to the majority and make it known: “...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15). We must choose life to live eternally and according to God (Deuteronomy 30:19).

The essence of what I’ve outlined in this paper is that there is a living God. He has revealed all knowledge that He wants revealed about this life and the life to come in Scripture. Because He is the source of all knowledge, His knowledge should be the foundation of all education. Let us determine to learn about our God and teach this knowledge to our children.

IX. A STUDY ON THE FEAR OF GOD

Lesson 1

Deuteronomy 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

1Samuel 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.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

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

Psalms 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

1. What does God require?
2. How do we fear God?
3. What is the fear of the Lord?
4. How are we to serve God?

Lesson 2

Psalms 25:12-14 What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. ¹³ His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. ¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Psalm 31 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

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

Psalm 36:1 The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Psalm 89:7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

1. What are the results of fearing God?
 2. Can the fear of God be learned?
 3. What causes a person not to fear God?
 4. How is God to be respected?
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Lesson 3

Psalm 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Psalm 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Psalm 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

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.

Psalm 112:1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

1. What are the results of fearing God?
 2. What is the fear of God?
 3. What is the evidence of fearing God?
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Lesson 4

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

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 9:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

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.

1. What is the fear of God?
 2. What are the results of fearing God?
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Lesson 5

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

Proverbs 15:16 Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

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

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.

1. What is the fear of God?
2. Discuss Proverbs 15:16.
3. What are the results of fearing God?

Lesson 6

Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Proverbs 23:17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Isaiah 11:1-3 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: ² And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; ³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Jeremiah 32:39-40 And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: ⁴⁰ And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

1. What rewards are promised to those who fear God?
2. How long are we to fear God?
3. What is the whole duty of man?
4. Where does the fear of God come from?

Lesson 7

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

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.

Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Romans 3:10-18 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become nprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³ Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood: ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways: ¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Romans 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

1. What is the fear of God?
 2. What is one good reason to fear God?
 3. What is the character of a person who fears God?
 4. What is the character of a person who does not fear God?
 5. What happens with our relationship with God when we do not fear Him?
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Lesson 8

Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

1Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Revelation 15:3-4 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

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.

Revelation 19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

1. Because God is going to give to us an eternal kingdom, how should we live?
 2. How should we live our life until we die?
 3. What is the number one reason for fearing God?
 4. What are we, who fear God, to do?
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