

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

The Whole Duty of Man!

Ecclesiastes 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.*

Growing up as a young boy, I always wanted my parents to be proud of me. It was very important to me, for them to be pleased with me as their son. I had a great deal of respect for them and how they lived their lives. I did not want to do anything that would cause them disappointment or embarrassment. Consequently, I behaved myself as best I could while around others and especially around grown ups that knew them. I certainly did not want them to give my parents a bad report about me. This caused me to not only behave myself in their presence but also away from my parents' presence. I realized that I had a fear or respect for them and it mattered to me what they thought.

As I got older and began to spend more and more time away from them, my attitude changed and it became easier for me to misbehave. I realized that not having that close fellowship and relationship with them had caused my attitude and my actions to change. Although it still mattered to me how they felt, it was not enough to alter my behavior. I had lost something that I once had. It slipped away because I had been absent from their presence and their influence.

This is what happens to believers when we don't stay in the presence of the Lord. It is very easy to lose our Fear of God. The fear of God prevents us from doing certain things because we know that He would not be pleased with them. It shouldn't matter what person we are hiding things from or what we think we've gotten away with. When we fear God, we know that He is not pleased, and we value what He thinks above what anyone else knows or finds out about us. It should grieve us as believers when we do something against the commandments of God. The more we stay in His presence, the more we know about Him and the more we Fear Him and the more sensitive we become to His spirit. We know when we are doing wrong and when we are too close to the edge.

God blessed Solomon with a supernatural wisdom and he used that wisdom to come to an important conclusion in the above passage of scripture. After much seeking, searching and researching, he came to the realization that you could boil life down into one sentence. The whole duty of man (mankind) is to FEAR GOD and Keep His Commandments. The Greek word for fear here is Yare it means to respect, to honor, to stand in awe of, to reverence. We must honor God with our attitude, with our behavior, with our speech, and in our activities. Our treatment of others is a direct witness of whether we have a fear of God or not. Our obedience to laws and submission to authority is a direct witness of our Fear of God. How we behave on our jobs, in business or even with our spouses and children all testify of our fear of God. Our church attendance and attitude toward serving in ministry is a witness of our fear of God. It shouldn't matter if the Pastor or Leader saw you or knows about your indiscretions. God knows and if there is a fear of God in you, it matters to you that He knows. Fear God and keep His commandments this is the whole duty of man. Make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill