

Why We Should Fear God

Mark N. Posey

Ecclesiastes is a book about outlook. The plot of *"the Preacher"* reveals the depression that inevitably results from seeking happiness in worldly possessions. This book gives Christians a chance to see the world through the eyes of a person who, though very wise, was trying to find meaning in impermanent, human things. Most every form of worldly desire is explored by the Preacher and none of it gave him a sense of meaning. In 3:14, the Preacher focuses on God and the reason man should revere ["fear"] Him. Fearing God "under the sun" includes the following.

God's Actions Are Permanent ("it shall be forever").

Things that are done by God are final. The granite peak that is being carved into a monument to Crazy Horse, the famous Sioux Indian chief, can never be undone. The dynamite blasts that carve away rock can never be replaced. It is final; it is forever. God, according to Malachi 3:6, is permanent: "For I am the Lord, I do not change." James identifies the consistency and stability of God in 1:17; His giving of good and perfect gifts will never vary or change.

God's Actions Are Effective and Complete ("nothing can be added to it").

God's Word penetrates the heart and molds the soul. He chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him (Ephesians 1:4). His Holy character provides the prime example for transformation and change. Those in fellowship with the Father are blessed with His illuminating light and Jesus' cleansing blood. Neither will ascend in greatness because both embody perfection.

God's Actions Are Totally Secure ("nothing taken from it").

God possesses all good qualities and does not lack any, nor does He have any qualities that are not good (Psalm 18:30; Matthew 5:48). He is independent, unchangeable, eternal and omnipresent. He exists as a Spiritual Being, having no form or dimensions and is omniscient, wise, truthful, faithful, good, loving, merciful, graceful, patient, holy, at peace, righteous and just, jealous for His own honor, wrathful towards sin, perfect in every way, beautiful beyond comprehension, and is glorified through the revelation of Himself. He lacks nothing and from Him nothing can or will be subtracted.

In conclusion, true wisdom comes only from understanding who God is and that He is holy, just and righteous. Solomon said, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7).

- Gospel Gazette online -

"... I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods." - Psalm 135:5

News & Notes

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Rich Robinson and Emily Petrock.

COVERED DISH DINNER: TODAY, about noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the church building.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next Saturday, Aug. 12th, 8:30 a.m. at the Columbian Church of Christ. The Chester brothers will be in charge of cooking.

GOSPEL MEETING: Next Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Aug. 11-13, St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ with Dan Jenkins.

LABOR DAY COOKOUT: Monday, Sept. 4th at Thompson Park. Sponsored by the Chester and St. Clair Avenue Congregations.

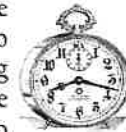
OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING: Sept. 24-28 with Charles Pugh.

PANTRY: Canned chicken or Spam.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Mike West, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Blondenia Orr, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Lori Rowand (John Sprout's niece). **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister).

A Little Clock

A little clock in a jeweler's window in a certain Western town stopped one day for half an hour, at twenty minutes after eight. School children, noticing the *t i m e*, stopped to *play*; people, hurrying to the train, looked at the *clock*, stopped to *chat* longer in the sunshine; all were late because one small clock stopped. Never had these people known how much they had depended upon that clock until it had led them astray.



Many are thus unconsciously depending upon the influence of Christians. You may think you have no influence, but you cannot go wrong in one little act without leading others astray. God's Word says, "None of us liveth to himself" (Rom. 14:7).

- Author Unknown -

Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL

Unprofitable Servants

Benjamin Franklin (Deceased)

Looking at the eternal benefits Christianity has conferred upon us, and the rich inheritance it proposes to confer in the world to come, the little a poor mortal can do in a short lifetime sinks into nothingness and deserves not to be mentioned. When we think of Him who became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich - that He became a little lower than the angels, that He, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man - that He had not where to lay His head - that He died for us - and think of the holy apostles and martyrs of Jesus, with all their labors and sufferings - all we do, or can do, dwindles into perfect insignificance. To God, over all, blessed for ever and ever, through Jesus Christ, we owe eternal gratitude, praises, and thanksgiving, that He has ever received us and permitted us to labor in His gracious cause at all. To His name be honor and power everlasting.

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -