

**Monday, 29 April 2019** Job 15:20-24

*The wicked man writhes in pain all his days, through all the years that are laid up for the ruthless. Dreadful sounds are in his ears; in prosperity the destroyer will come upon him. He does not believe that he will return out of darkness, and he is marked for the sword. He wanders abroad for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand; distress and anguish terrify him; they prevail against him, like a king ready for battle.*

This is an adequate description of the man who lives outside the Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty — consumed with pain, dreadful sounds that make him jump at every occurrence, no hope for the future, and miserable. A life without hope.

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**Tuesday, 30 April 2019** Job 18:5-11 *"Indeed, the light of the wicked is put out, and the flame of his fire does not shine. The light is dark in his tent, and his lamp above him is put out. His strong steps are shortened, and his own schemes throw him down. For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walks on its mesh. A trap seizes him by the heel; a snare lays hold of him. A rope is hidden for him in the ground, a trap for him in the path. Terrors frighten him on every side, and chase him at his heels.*

The Godless have nothing but terror and fear; they have no Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty to comfort and shield them from the onslaughts of Satan. Remember, the Evil One is driving Job's woes and problems. But Job knows *"that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth."* Job 19:25

In spite of the taunting of his friends, the ill-considered advice of his wife, and the all-consuming aches and pains, he can say, "I know my Redeemer lives." The wicked do not have this assurance, only terror on every side.

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**Wednesday, 1 May 2019** Job 19:26-29

*And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! If you say, 'How we will pursue him!' and, 'The root of the matter is found in him,' be afraid of the sword, for wrath brings the punishment of the sword, that you may know there is a judgment."*

Job faces all his problems through the lens of the Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty. He still has a lot to face, especially a grilling by the LORD, but the fright is gone, replaced by the confidence that the LORD will provide.

**Thursday, 2 May 2019** Job 21:1-6

*Then Job answered and said: "Keep listening to my words, and let this be your comfort. Bear with me, and I will speak, and after I have spoken, mock on. As for me, is my complaint against man? Why should I not be impatient? Look at me and be appalled, and lay your hand over your mouth. When I remember, I am dismayed, and shuddering seizes my flesh.*

Job has listened to his friends blither on, not listening to a word he says; doing quite well except for an understandable sarcastic comment in Job 12:1-2, *Then Job answered and said: "No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you.* They had been pushing the envelope.

Now he says, "Look at me and be appalled." He's asking for them to remember who he was. He says he remembers and is dismayed, he shudders. Isn't this a normal reaction as we slog through the Slough of Despond? But he recognizes that all is in the hand of the LORD (Job 12:16) and he, and we, must accept that.

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**Friday, 3 May 2019** Job 21:7-9

*Why do the wicked live, reach old age, and grow mighty in power? Their offspring are established in their presence, and their descendants before their eyes. Their houses are safe from fear, and no rod of God is upon them.*

Job is like the rest of us. How come the bad guys are doing so well? It's so easy to look at the world around me and wonder, "Here I am, struggling from payday to payday, doctor's bills are mounting and there's that lying, cheating rascalion driving a brand new truck every year. Not fair!

Got my eyes off the LORD; that's the problem. I forgot that He told me to seek His Kingdom and His righteousness first and all my needs would be met. I've got good reliable transportation, a truck with a V-12 and 8 wheel drive is not on the need list. He tells me to TRUST Him; I'm still learning.

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**Saturday, 4 May 2019** Job 28:20-28

*"From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air. Abaddon and Death say, 'We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.' "God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure, when he made a decree for*

*the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder, then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'*"

Job continues to dig for an understanding of wisdom (Job 28:12) and comes to an important conclusion—the LORD, God, the Almighty knows and man cannot. The omniscience and eternal character of the LORD demand that He know all, but we, time-constrained man, cannot not. However, the answer lies in the Fear of the LORD which is evidenced in each of us by a desire to turn away from evil. He hates sin (Deut. 12:31); hence we are called to demonstrate of Fear of the LORD, God, the Almighty by our turning away from sin. Praise Him that we have the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us in this endeavor.

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**Lord's Day, 5 May 2019 Psalm 119:159**

*Consider how I love your precepts! Give me life according to your steadfast love.*

Give me life according to Your steadfast love. Give me wisdom, give me hope, give me strength, give me peace, give me joy, give me righteousness—I have the power of the Spirit at work within me—teach me to use it and rely on it.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*April 29-May 5, 2019*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Timothy 1:15-18**

*May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.*

May the Lord show mercy to the families of the [congregation] who have frequently supported each other in prayer during times of illness and affliction. The love and concern exhibited by the saints is a powerful testimony to binding power of the fellowship that has been inspired by the Holy Spirit moving among us.

May we continue to grow as a body of believers united in You. Amen

*To fear or not to fear, that is the question.*

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

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