

Greater Works Christian Church
Robert A. Enos
Founder and Lead Apostle

The Fear of the Lord, 2

Introduction: *I want to recap on what we began last week.*

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverse mouth I hate.

Note: As we have started to see, the fear of the Lord is to hate those things that God hates, namely evil, pride, arrogance, the evil way and the perverse mouth. We are to have the Fear of the Lord within us; because of this we are to hate evil (these things listed) just as God hates them.

Sin is to become 'sinful' to God's people once again. This may sound strange, but it is true none the less. Sin must be seen as sin once again. We can no longer overlook sin and act as if it isn't in our life, nor can we make up excuses as to why it is O.K. to sin. Many have done while teaching on grace (falsely teaching). Misunderstanding grace has given way to all kinds of sin with those who do not fully understand grace, or why God gives it. It is my hope to shed some light and bring some understanding in this area.

The Law and Grace

Galatians 3: 19-25

¹⁹ What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

²⁰ Now a mediator does not *mediate* for one *only*, but God is one.

²¹ Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Note: As we can plainly see, the Law was given because of transgressions.

Transgression= deviation from an original and true direction.

The Law could not necessarily put man back on course, but it could keep man from wandering too far away from his purpose, until Christ (the Seed) came to restore man fully to his intended position. The Law kept man ***“under guard”***, and thus protected man, keeping man ***“for the faith which would afterward be revealed.”***

Again we see the value of the Law. It was the Law that, not only guarded us, but it was the Law that became our Tutor, bringing us to Christ.

Tutor= literally, a boy leader. A servant responsible for the care, discipline, and training of the children: especially the sons.

Also translated, schoolmaster.

This is the Law. The Law taught man, and brought man, to Christ.

Galatians 4:1-2

Now I say *that* the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, ² but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

Note: Just as in the Jewish home, the children are under this Tutor (schoolmaster), there is a time that they are no longer to be under this Tutor's training. This is a time that is set by the Father of the home. The children graduate (so to speak) when they master all that they are being taught. The Tutor teaches the children the “elemental things” (or the lower common things we would learn in school), then when they come out from under the training of this “Schoolmaster” the Father can then begin training the children the operation of the family business.

Notice in the above passage, that even though the child is the heir of all things, he is still under the guard and training of “guardians and stewards”, until the time appointed by the Father. This is known as being “under the Law”. Once “graduated” from the training of our Tutor, the Law, we can then go onto the next step of our growth and development.

Romans 6:12-14

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

¹³ And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Note: As we see from both Galatians 3 and here in Romans 6, we are no longer under the Law, but we are now under Grace.

Under= in subjection to; being subject to someone or something in a higher position; to come under the power of.

Seeing the meaning of this word (under), and after taking a look at the passage in Galatians 3, we can see that to be “Under Grace” means that Grace is now our Teacher, Schoolmaster, and Tutor.

Grace is not merely a “force” or an “idea.” Grace is the Power to accomplish something. God gave us His Grace in order to bring us to a place that the Law never could.

Grace Empowers Us to Serve God Acceptably

Hebrews 12: 28, 29

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Note: Many have the idea that Grace gives them a license to do whatever they want to do. To some, Grace relieves them of all moral responsibility, and allows them to live a life that is merely pleasing to themselves. Some Pastors and Preachers have settled for a ministry that abandons moral absolutes and gives way to living life without proper boundaries or rule. This is not what the Grace of God is to produce in the life of the believer. Instead, Grace is to bring us to a place of greater Holiness and purity in every area of our life. It is Grace that gives us the ability to **“serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”** Grace does not give us to freedom to sin and get away with it. On the contrary, Grace gives us the power to overcome sin, and to live a godly life, spiritually and naturally.

Also, notice that it is grace that gives us the ability to live with, and in, Godly Fear. Grace is the power that gives us the ability to Fear the Lord properly. This Fear of the Lord cannot be obtained without Grace.

Titus 2: 11- 15

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Note: Again we see that it is Grace that gives us the ability to live godly. Here we see that it is Grace that **“teaches”** us how to deny ungodliness, worldly lusts, and it is Grace that **“teaches”**

us how to live soberly, righteously and godly. This passage goes onto to show that Jesus came to redeem us from every **lawless (without law) deed**, and to purify us, and to make us zealous (excited) for good works.

Many have wrongfully taught that “works” are no longer needed in the New Covenant. This they teach, misunderstanding what Paul was truly attempting to convey to his readers. It is true that we cannot “work” for salvation, or for the initial favor of the Lord, but once saved and favor received, we are to do the “good works” that we were created for.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

These works are not works of the law, trying to earn salvation, but instead the works of Faith, that God has called us all to.

James 2:18

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Again, this is not works trying to obtain God’s approval. These are works that are birthed from God’s approval. In other words, I have obtained God’s approval, so I can do these works of righteousness in His name.

Again, it is Grace that empowers, and teaches us to live a godly life, and how to do the “good works” we were created to do. It is Grace that brings us into the proper understanding of the Fear of the Lord. Grace and godly fear go hand in hand, for it is grace that trains us to Fear God.

Conclusion:

There is Power to Achieve the Desired Goal

Psalms 85:9

Surely His salvation *is* near to those who fear Him,
That glory may dwell in our land.

Note: It is the desire and passion of this church to have the Glory of the Lord reside in this region. It is the Fear of the Lord that makes this possible. God’s Glory will not inhabit the place where there is no Godly Fear. On account of this, we must take hold of the Grace of God, and allow that Grace to empower us, and to develop in us the Fear of the Lord. As this happens, we will see great things.

Psalms 147:11

The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
In those who hope in His mercy.

Note: Our God is Holy and just, hating evil and unrighteousness. On account of this, is it any wonder that God finds pleasure in those who love what He loves and hates what He hates? God is seeking a people that will rise up and be as He is. God is looking for a people that He can give Himself totally over to. These ones will be those who have given themselves fully to Him and have a proper fear of the Lord.