

**Fear God and Keep His Commandments – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2014**

***“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.” Ecc.12:13***

Beloved in The Lord,

Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived, with the exception of The Lord Jesus Christ. God had endowed him with a very special wisdom and understanding. Solomon received this, because when he was just a young king, he had asked God to give him wisdom. God appeared to Solomon and told him to ask for whatever he wanted, and God promised to give it to him.

We read in 1 Kings:

***“Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”***

***<sup>10</sup> It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, “Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, <sup>12</sup> behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you” (1.Kings 3:7-12).***

This is how Solomon gained his amazing wisdom. Throughout his life he embarked upon a journey of discovery and he tried all different lifestyles, and he denied himself nothing in pursuit of pleasure. He found that outside of God and His Word, all is vanity. Then he came to the conclusion that is our text today:

***“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.”***

You see, when all is said and done, it really is not complicated: fear God and keep His commandments. If you do, then you will live a blessed life. If you fear God and keep His commandments then you are on the road of truth and goodness.

It is interesting that the smartest, wisest person that ever lived, understood that to fear God and to keep His commandments is the obligation of every person, yet today, those who profess to be wise and smart are the ones who generally deny God and His ways.

I believe that the reason is pride. Pride is hidden away in all sin. Pride says “I know better. I don’t need God. Why should I trust in God when I can manage quite well on my own?” The fact of the matter is, that if a person has any abilities, they come from God. True wisdom is to humble yourself before Almighty God, and to fully trust in Him. To fear God and to keep His commandments is the road to true wisdom, peace and security in life.

Solomon said that the command to fear God and keep His commandments applies to every person. Our world, our society, our families and indeed our own lives would be a lot different if all people followed this simple rule. Just think about it. There would be no war; no greed, no coveting, no bitter arguments and disputes, no theft, no murder, no rape..... Unfortunately, the perfect World will only come about when God creates a New Heaven and a New Earth; when He has completed His plan of salvation for mankind. In the meanwhile, each one of us should strive to live our life in Godly fear and obedience to God's commandments.

God's commandments can be all brought together in one with two parts – The Great Commandment:

***“And Jesus to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup> This is the great and foremost commandment.<sup>39</sup> The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).***

If we keep this Great Commandment, then all of the others are automatically covered. You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart. If you do, then naturally you will not steal, lie, covet, commit adultery, murder, blaspheme and so on. The key is to love God fully, with all of your heart.

It should not be difficult to do so, yet many do not. This is because our focus is not always on Him. A couple of weeks ago we considered the fact that our focus must be squarely and fairly on Jesus all of the time. If we keep Jesus in our line of vision all of the time, then our love will be perfected, or at least it will be heading in the right direction.

God has loved us so very much. He has saved us from eternal death. He has saved us from sin and death. He did it because He loves us.

***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).***

Because God so loved us, He poured out the innocent blood of His Son Jesus, to pay our sin debt in full, in order that we may be forever saved. How can we not love Him? We deserve God's wrath and eternal punishment, because we all have rebelled against Him, sinned against Him, and instead He freely offers us forgiveness and eternal life in His Kingdom, if we believe in Him.

God considers us to be very precious, very valuable. He cleanses us with Jesus' blood and gives us a home in Heaven. How can we not love Him? Sadly many do not – even professing Christians. Many do not put God first in their life. If you do not put God first in your life you are a loser. If you do not daily read His Word – The Bible – then you are starving your soul and spirit, they are malnourished. You are harming yourself. If you do not pray without ceasing, then you will often err in your way. If you do not pray for and obey the guiding of The Holy Spirit in all things, then you will often make costly mistakes. If you do not keep your eyes of faith firmly focused on Jesus, then you will suffer for it. You open yourself to fear, anxiety, lack of joy and peace.

Loving God with all of your heart, putting Him first and foremost, you cannot lose. Jesus said:

***“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Mt.6:33).***

If you make God and His ways your priority, if you fear Him and keep His commandments, then He assumes responsibility for all of your needs. Not many people understand this truth. Jesus put it very simply. Seek first God’s Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things ( The things that you need) will be added to you. Our responsibility is to fear God and keep His commandments and if we do, then God promises to take care of all of our needs. Paul wrote: ***“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil.4:19).***

Paul could not have made it any clearer. Because He loves us, our Father in Heaven will take care of, and supply all of our needs. Let us trust Him to do so. Let us love Him with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind, with all of our strength – with all of our being.

No longer should we try to live with one foot in the world and the other foot in God’s Kingdom. That is of no use. Doing so will only distance us from God and His ways. Every day let us focus upon Him. Let us entrust all into His loving hands, as Paul tell us to do:

***“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:1-2).***

We need to do this every day!

Every day we ought to make our confession based upon these verses:

“Lord, today I offer myself to You. I present my body a living and holy sacrifice. I will not be conformed to this world, I am transformed by the renewing of my mind, so that I may prove what your will is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect. I am submitting to the leading of Your Holy Spirit. This I proclaim in Jesus name.”

Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.