

Series: Standing on the Promises of God

THE SECRET OF THE LORD IS WITH THEM THAT FEAR HIM

PSALMS 25

Text: Psalms 25:14

Psalm 25:14

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Introduction:

As we considered last week; there are two types of promises we find in God's Word.

Unconditional Promises; those promises that will be fulfilled with no conditions to be met.

For instance:

- God has unconditionally promised to never destroy the earth with a flood again.

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, ⁹ And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; ¹⁰ And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the

cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

¹¹ And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹² And God said, This is the token of the

covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³ I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴ And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

¹⁵ And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. ¹⁷ And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

There were no conditions attached to this covenant. It was an unconditional promise of God to man and the earth concerning the manner in which he would not destroy man, fowl, beast and the earth.

He didn't say he would never destroy this earth. But he did promise he would never destroy it anymore by means of a flood.

- God also has unconditionally promised not to curse the ground anymore for man's sake.

Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 8:20-22

²⁰ And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. ²² While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

After the flood of Noah's day, God unconditionally promised not to curse the ground any more for man's sake.

He would not curse the ground any more for man's sake, even though the imagination of man's heart be evil from his youth (vs. 21).

This is another unconditional promise of God to man.

Man is not called upon to do anything to bring about the fulfillment of this promise.

It will be honored or fulfilled regardless of whether or not man serves God faithfully.

- God has unconditionally promised that Christ will come again in a personal coming.
- God has unconditionally promised of the dead.
- God has unconditionally promised a day of judgment – which judgment we will be at is conditional however.

As we stated last week most of the promises in God's Word however are conditional.

We will begin considering today the conditional promises of God.

Remember:

God's promise will be fulfilled as we do or meet the requirement or the prerequisite.

Note this morning in Psalms 25:12-14:

Psalm 25:12-14

¹² What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. ¹³ His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

We have in this passage: A Person That is Described, A Promise That is Declared, and A Purpose That is Determine.

This passage address the family.

God's heart toward the family is expressed in how He desires family members are to live.

This begins when we have the right understanding of God.

Note:

1. THE PERSON THAT IS DESCRIBED

Psalm 25:12

¹² What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

This individual is an individual who fears the Lord.

Note:

A. The Definition of the Fear of the Lord

What do we mean when we speak of fearing the Lord?

When we think of fear, we associate the word with terror. Webster's Dictionary defines fear as "a feeling of anxiety and agitation produced by the presence or nearness of danger, evil, pain, etc."

For many, this would describe the feeling you get when you see a snake, go to the doctor or dentist, or when you find yourself in a time of extreme danger. It is dread of the unknown.

This is not what we are talking about.

The word fear in today's vernacular means reverence, awe, great respect.

This individual has a deep reverence and respect for the Lord. He is awed and humbled by the presence of God.

When we truly fear the Lord, we will recognize that He is the Creator and we are the creatures. He is the Master and we are the servants. He is the Father and we are the children. This attitude will manifest itself in our having a respect for God, His word and in our having a desire to do what He tells us to in His Bible.

Genuine fear of the Lord is always seen in obedience to the Word of God, Pro. 8:13:

Proverbs 8:13

¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Note not only the definition of fear but also:

B. The Dividends of Fear

The fear of the Lord produces certain things that are certainly beneficial.

Will look closer at our passage and its benefits in a moment but note some additional benefits:

Note:

A. It's the Beginning of Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 15:33

³³ The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

The best place to begin the search for true wisdom is in the fear of the Lord.

True fear of the Lord is born out of a knowledge of how powerful, majestic and full of goodness God is.

Before one can grow in the Lord, he must first learn to fear Him.

Not only is wisdom a dividend of fear but also:

B. It Motivates People to Holiness

Proverbs 3:7

⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 16:6

⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

These verse tell us that the fear of the Lord promotes holy living.

The person who truly reverences and respects the Lord as he should will not do anything that brings disgrace, dishonor or pain to the heart of the Lord.

People who genuinely fear the Lord will flee from evil. The prospect of causing the Lord pain will be too great to bear!

Not only is wisdom and motivation a dividend of fear but also:

C. It Prolongs Life

Proverbs 10:27

²⁷ The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

This is not a blanket promise because any number of things can happen along the road of life that can take us out of here in an instant.

However, generally speaking, those who live in the fear of the Lord are more likely to live to a good old age than those who live for the flesh and the world.

Illustration:

Approximately 60% of human illnesses can be traced directly or indirectly to fear, sorrow, envy, resentment, guilt, hatred, or to any number of emotional stresses.

Add to that; the awful pain caused by alcohol (cirrhosis of the liver), tobacco, (emphysema, cancer, heart disease), and immorality, (venereal diseases and AIDS), we can see that a life lived in the fear of the Lord with obedience to His Word will result in a much healthier existence.

Not only is wisdom, motivation and longevity of life a dividend of fear but also:

D. It Produces a Sense of Security

Proverbs 14:26

²⁶ In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

When we are walking in the fear of the Lord, we can have confidence that God is on our side.

Romans 8:31

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

The fear of the Lord produces a strong sense of security and close fellowship with the Father. This is a blessed benefit!

There are many more benefits that we could consider but for the sake of time we must move on.

We have considered The Person That Is Described.

Note secondly:

2. THE PROMISES THAT ARE DECLARED

Back in our text note these promises:

Psalm 25:12-14

¹² What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. ¹³ His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

In these verses we find at least 4 and I feel 5 promises.

Note these promises:

- A. Teach
- B. Guide – “in the way that he shall choose”
- C. Contentment – “his soul shall dwell at ease”
- D. Blessed – “shall inherit the earth”
- E. Enlighten – “shew them his covenant”

All of these promises are things that no doubt each of us desire, however they are conditional promises – conditional on our fearing or reverencing God.

Let me quickly share one final thought.

3. THE PURPOSE THAT IS DETERMINED

Fearing God is a choice that one must make.

No one can make you do, no one can do it for you. The decision to live a life that is ordered around a holy, reverential respect for God is a decision that you must make for yourself.

How is the fear of the Lord developed?

A. The Fear of the Lord comes through the Word of God

Just as "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The same can be said for the "fear of the Lord"!

Deuteronomy 31:10-13

*¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, ¹¹ When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹² Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and **that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God,** and observe to do all the words of this law: ¹³ And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and **learn to fear the LORD** your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.*

As one reads the Word of God, they should gain a healthy degree of the "fear of the Lord"

Note: Rom 2:4:11; 2 Peter 3:7-14

Romans 2:4-11

⁴ Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? ⁵ But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶ Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ⁷ To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ⁸ But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, ⁹ Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; ¹⁰ But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: ¹¹ For there is no respect of persons with God.

2 Peter 3:7-14

⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any

should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, ¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

¹⁴ Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Close:

As we close we have considered wonderful promises today that are conditional.

No doubt we desire be taught, guided, reach a place of contentment, enjoying His blessing, and being enlightened to His word.

These promises are conditional upon our fearing or reverencing God.

May the Lord help us all to walk in a reverential awe of Him, His greatness and His glory.

May we His people always be a people who fear the Lord and prove it by living by His Word!