

NO FEAR OF GOD

“There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:18.)

I once heard a psychiatrist say that the newborn infant has only two fears: the fear of loud noise, and the fear of falling. “In the course of a normal life,” he continued, “the average person learns more than 5,000 fears.”

These other “fears” are “learned.” The infant is not naturally afraid of poisonous snakes and spiders, they have to be taught this fear. Some fears are learned by bitter and painful experience, and others are learned by observation and example.

The infant, of course, has no “fear of God.” Neither can they experiment with God as they can with a burning match or a sharp knife. They learn to fear God from the teaching and example of those around them.

Our ancestors were God fearing people. Their fear of God was foundational to both family and society. A man may lie to his neighbour in a moment of anger or passion, but this same man would never deliberately lie to God. Therefore, our ancestors designed a court system that would require witnesses to place their hand upon the Holy Bible and swear to God that they were going to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. However painful the truth may be, the God fearing man would always tell the truth. He was more afraid of God than he was of society. The same oath, however, would be meaningless to a man who had no fear of God.

Romans 3: contains a graphic description of sinful man. Many of these words are taken from Psalm 14. That Psalm begins with the reminder that the fool says in his heart there is no God. There are eight different Hebrew words that are all translated as “fool” in the KJV of the Bible. This particular word is “nabal.” It refers to someone who is “shamelessly immoral.” Shamelessly immoral people are more like animals than men. Like a horse, or a mule, they have no fear of God. God fearing men are controlled by conscience. Animals, if they are controlled at all, must be treated much differently from God fearing man.

Our country was recently shocked by school children committing mass murder and suicide. God fearing people, of course, would do neither. They would be afraid to. In Shakespeare’s Mac Beth suicide was averted by the fear of what would happen after death. “Aye, but in that sleep of death what dreams may come when we have shuffled off this mortal coil. Must give us pause.” In their eyes it was better to “bear the evils” of today, rather than “fly to others that we know not of.”

The man who does not fear God denies God. The Psalmist had it right, in his heart he says there is no God. Deep within he refuses to accept any consequences for his conduct. In the final analysis, he thinks that he is God. His delusions, of course, are irrational. Peter said that angels, who are greater in power and might than man, would not dare to be so irrational. **But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;” (2 Pet 2:12)**

Reflect for a moment upon the frailty of man. The handsome and athletic actor who played Superman in the movies was totally paralysed by merely falling from his horse. A man with perfect vision can be blinded by the slightest injury. The worlds strongest man can be confined to his bed by a simple infection in his inner ear. A kidney stone the size of a pin head can incapacitate the bravest soul and the slightest haemorrhage in the brain can bring insanity and death. We are mortal. Yet the wicked one provides such strong delusion that we forget or mortality. We look in the mirror and forget what manner of man we saw.

There is a God! The heavens declare His glory and the firmament shows His handiwork. The most powerful nations on earth are like a drop in the bucket to Him, or a tiny speck of dust on His eternal scales (Is. 40:15.) When the world’s most powerful leaders array themselves against Him, it is only a cause for His laughter (Ps. 2:1-4.)

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” (Ps 111:10)