



“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7

The Scriptures are imminently practical. Throughout its pages – especially here in the Proverbs – we learn the nature and characteristics of various types of people – while not a complete list; we will find the fool, the righteous, the prudent, the stupid, the immoral, and the wise. Clearly we are presented with a mirror that enables us to examine, not so much others, but in particular, ourselves! (see James 1:23 – 25). And the examination is always to the end that we might be changed more and more into the image of the Son of God – Jesus Christ!

“Lord, Your awe touches my heart – help me to look with courage into these Proverbs that I might see myself as the Holy Spirit presently sees me as He tirelessly labours to fashion me into the image and character of Jesus. It’s my prayer to be changed, more and more, until I’m like Your Son! Help me to be ruthless in confronting my weaknesses, sins and those areas of my life that need help and correction, grace and direction. Amen.”

The fear of the Lord is where we must begin. For the child of God this fear of God is not the same fear or terror as His enemies would experience, although that sense of His wonder is not entirely to be lost either. He is awesome in His deeds and extremely holy in His character – yes, full of mercy, but extremely holy! “The Lord shall judge His people; it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God!” (Hebrews 10:20 – 31).

The fool remains unteachable; the believing Christian walks in humility and the fear of the Lord. “Wherefore, receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28 – 29)

“LORD, renew in me a righteous and holy – fear of the LORD!”

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