

## Light and Life

## Fear God And None Else

The fear of the Lord is an often-overlooked virtue in today's religious world. In the minds of many, godly fear works against the concept of a gracious and loving Father. But in actuality, these concepts find perfect harmony in the character of God.

The fear of God does not live in constant worry and doubt. Rather, godly fear empowers the believer to greater faith and confidence! "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments" (Ps. 112:1)! To fear God, in this sense, means to revere Him and take His authority seriously. If we are respecting His authority in this way, there is no need for us to be afraid in the emotional sense. Submitting to God's authority means victory over anything else that could be of concern to us!

The one who fears the Lord "will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established; He will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies" (Ps. 112:7-8). "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Ps. 23:4). "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Ps. 118:6)

The one who fears God need not fear any else! To one who has made Jesus their Lord, the enemies of sin and death have been defeated! Even those who are "accounted as sheep for the slaughter" in this life are not separated from the love of Christ (Rm. 8:31-39)! Jesus said, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Mt. 10:28).

It is critical to have a healthy fear of God's authority – and if we fear God, we should fear none else!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Life & Death: Two Articles

I'm sure it can feel very liberating to eat of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. To walk away from the shackles of Scripture. To accept plurality and culture as equal grounds to knowing truth.

But when God comes walking in the cool of the day, He's going to ask you about it. And no amount of poorly sewn fig leaves will hide the naked truth of your intentional rebellion. And like it or not, rebellion bears the punishment of death.

Thanks be to God that our Brother and Priest Jesus has crushed the tempter and given us the promise of access to the tree of life! But you lose access to life in your pursuit of rebellion to do things your own way. - Luke Moyer

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Death is all around us. Here at Oak Grove, we worship across the street from a cemetery showing generations of those who have left before us. We sometimes see families gathered there for burials or see someone visiting a grave as we leave on a Sunday afternoon after worship. It's heartbreaking to watch their grief. It's even more heartbreaking when you are the one standing there as you say goodbye to your loved ones. Life can be hard. Death can be harder. But with the hope of Christ, it is not the final goodbye (Jn 11:25). Death is inevitable. Everything that lives dies. Death can be a hard and sad thing, but it can also remind us of our mortality – and our need for Christ.

Jesus left heaven, became a man, and experienced a torturous, painful death so that He could release us from its fate. We will still die, but death has no lasting effects on Christ's people. It is merely the gateway into a fuller life. Now, instead of the fear of dying, we have the hopeful anticipation of an existence so full of life that death will never again invade it (He 2:14-15). Death will die! And we will live!

- Robbie Moreland

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

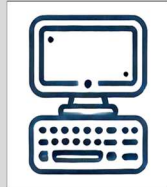
### Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## Find Us Online!



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& on Facebook

## DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

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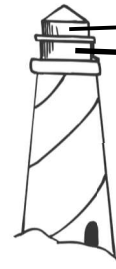
The world is changed  
by your example, not  
by your opinion.

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
Scott Hale  
Jason Hill  
Chris Johnson  
Brock McKeel  
Randy Potter  
Tim Roberts  
Randy Shell



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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## God Remembered

After centuries in Egyptian bondage the people of Israel were hurting. It may have seemed as if God had forgotten them – but He hadn't. "God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel – and God knew" (Ex 2:23-24).

He heard, He remembered, He saw, and He knew.

When in the middle of 'the good life', when every break goes our way, when physical, financial, and emotional struggles are rare – or come not at all – we may forget our need for God. But He never forgets us.

He never forgets to care for His creation – even for those who do not care for Him (Ac 14:16-17).

He never forgets His people – even when the 'good life' is gone, when the breaks stop going our way, and when the physical, financial, and emotional struggles beat us down relentlessly. At such times, even His children may curse Him (Job 2:9). But He never forgets them.

And He never forgets His promises to us – promises of "glory" for those who patiently endure, and promises of "wrath" for those who don't (Ro 2:6-11). And that's something **we** must never forget. - *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, JTerrell, ACorder

*Shut-ins:* SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeiligenthal, AHopper

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Apr 18 Stevens-Shepard singing; Jul 13-17 Colton McDaniel VBS; Aug 1-3 Chuck Durham Youth Weekend

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Always ask 'so what?' at the end of your daily Bible reading. (Good advice from Mark Roberts)