



Message Reflections

April 28, 2019

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 1:7

This verse is familiar to many of us, but it's not necessarily easy to understand. A lot of people read those words and conclude that the fear of the Lord means being afraid of God. That couldn't be further from the truth.

Proverbs is all about gaining wisdom. How do we gain wisdom?

There are two ways we gain wisdom: one is by the experience of life, and the second is by learning God's Word. The Lord is committed to instructing us and to seeing us grow, but how that guidance and growth takes place is up to us. We can either be instructed and guided by experiencing life, or we can learn by studying the Word.

Proverbs 9:10 -- *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

- Does the idea of "fearing" God bother you? Why or why not?
- What do you fear, and how does it affect the way you live? Does it lead to anger, worry, anxiety, or attempts to control others?

Read: Ephesians 4:1, Colossians 1:10, and 1 Thessalonians 2:12.

- How would a renewed fear (awe, reverence) of the Lord encourage you to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel?

How should we live our lives? By fearing God.

Eric