

“Fear God”

by Ira Lynn

Ecclesiastes 12:8-14 sums up the “this is your life” tone of the entire book...

Solomon also tells us what is real. He tells us what he had learned: for man to be truly “whole” he needs to have the right **attitude** toward God (“*fear*”) and the right **response** to God (“*keep His commandments*”). “Fear God” is an attitude of life. It is to be one’s permanent posture. The root of religion is the fear of God reigning in the heart, a reverence of His majesty, a deference to His authority, and a dread of His wrath.

“*Keep His commandments*” is life’s response to heaven and involves self-crucifixion and renunciation.

Heed, keep, observe and **obey** the commandments of God. Faithful obedience has ever been God’s desire for man. “Trust and obey;” thus, true happiness must come at the spirit level. True happiness is based on attitude, because flowing out of the right attitude is obedience, and I must have an implicit respect for and trust in God and then be willing to serve Him regardless of what happens in life. So, independent of all circumstances (good or bad), I will trust and obey, “*for this is the whole duty of man.*” Ecclesiastes 12:13 is Solomon’s “search-ending” verse. Any other response to God is to operate in a vacuum. “Trust and obey” is the big picture — the stratagem for happiness.

Why “fear God and keep His commandments”? Because this is applicable to every person and God shall bring every act, “everything which is hidden, to judgment, whether it be good or evil.” One day we will be hurled into the presence of God to be judged for all our decisions and deeds of life (see Ecclesiastes 11:9; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12). There will be “payday someday,” a final accounting. We are, Solomon says, morally responsible people. ... Life’s cup is full when I put God in the picture.

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