

Episode #634 The Why Question 19: Why Fear? New Testament

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. One of the sad situations we face in this world is the reality of terror and fear. Fear of a virus that so far has not been nearly as bad as predicted caused many people to willingly give up their jobs and businesses and freedoms and hide in their homes. Why do we face fear in this world?

Today we will continue to examine this issue from the New Testament.

III. The Fear of God.

- A. Luke 7:16. In Job 18:14, Bildad calls death the “king of terrors.” But how much more awe and fear inspiring is One Who is powerful enough to reverse it?
- B. Luke 12:4-5. Jesus Christ tells us we should fear God, not men.
- C. Acts 10:34-35. Peter learns that God has always been willing to accept anyone from any nations who fears Him and because of that works righteousness.
- D. II Corinthians 5:10-11. The apostles, knowing they would face Christ’s judgment seat, knew the terror of the Lord and so persuaded men.
- E. Revelation 15:4. Who shall not fear the Lord? Who indeed!

IV. Things to Fear.

- A. Matthew 2:22. Joseph feared the violence of a wicked ruler. In the twentieth century, three rulers (Hitler, Stalin, Mao Zedong) killed 100 million people. Perhaps we should be more afraid of rulers than of viruses!
- B. Matthew 14:30. When Peter took his eyes off the Lord he became afraid and began to sink.
- C. II Corinthians 7:5. Paul faced many fears from every side in his ministry.
- D. II Corinthians 11:3. Paul feared God’s people would be deceived by Satan like Eve was deceived.
- E. Galatians 4:11. Paul was afraid his efforts on the Galatians were wasted when they turned from trusting to faith in Christ to trusting in the law.
- F. Hebrews 10:27, 31. It is fearful for an unsaved sinner to await God’s judgment!
- G. II Peter 2:10. One ought to be afraid to speak against God’s dignitaries!
- H. Jude 1:23. Save men with fear!

V. Things Not to Fear.

- A. Matthew 14:27. There is no reason for God’s people to be afraid at His presence!
- B. Luke 1:30. Those who find grace with God have no reason to be afraid of Him.
- C. Luke 12:32. Do not fear! For it is your Father’s pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- D. Romans 8:15. We do not receive the spirit of fear.
- E. I Corinthians 16:10. God’s servants should not have to fear His people!
- F. Philippians 1:14. God’s people should speak the Word without fear.
- G. II Timothy 1:7. God has not given us the spirit of fear!
- H. I Peter 3:6. It is good for God’s women to do good and not be afraid.
- I. I John 4:18. Perfect love casts out fear!
- J. Revelation 1:17. There is no reason to fear the future with the First and the Last on our side!

VI. With God There is No Need to Fear.

- A. Mark 4:40-41. Why did the disciples fear the storm with the Lord in the ship?

- B. Mark 5:36. Jesus told this father not to be afraid, even in the light of his daughter's death!
- C. Hebrews 2:15. The fear of death is what holds people in bondage. We can see this even now in this fear of a virus.
- D. Hebrews 13:6. With the Lord as the Helper, why fear?

VII. Conclusion: As terror of a virus and fear of the overreaching actions of our government, not to mention of economic woe and poverty, sweep our country, we all must ask ourselves what should be our real fear? There might be things in this world of which we are temporarily afraid, but ultimately a believer in Jesus Christ should have no fear. If the worst happens and death comes to ourselves or our loved ones, this is not ultimate calamity, for with the Lord with us we can have confidence even in the face of death. It is a lack of trust in God and belief in His resurrection life to come that ultimately leads to panicked fear. With a true faith in both, we can rest in His love, and that perfect love will cast out all our fear!