

HONOR FOR AND HELP FROM CHRIST

David Halbrook

When Peter saw Jesus miraculously changed in physical appearance, speaking with the deceased saints Moses and Elijah, he asked if Jesus wanted a tabernacle built for Him, Moses, and Elijah. From the sky, the Holy Father interrupted Peter, making it clear that honoring men and Jesus in similar ways is not God's plan. (Read all this in Matthew 17)

According to *Boston.com*, a seriously ill woman built an altar to the deceased Catholic leader, John Paul II, hoping his help would bring miraculous healing. She claims he granted her request, so the Catholic Church plans to grant sainthood upon the dead Catholic leader. If this were true, then John Paul II approved of an altar being built to himself! Does God approve of altars built for humans (or built at all today)?

Peter and this woman erred similarly. God never taught Christians to: build altars, pray to dead saints, or credit miracles to help from dead saints. These doctrines of men have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion and false humility but offer no true help (Col. 2:22-23). Only the Bible shows how to honor and receive help from Christ. Send us your comments, questions.

Editor's note: Each week we give, part of what we give is paying for the space where these articles are published. Help increase the usefulness of these articles by reading and distributing these articles.

-- Our fall meeting with Wayne Goff is **September 22-27**.

-- Future gospel meetings: Brett Hogland (Spring 2014), Ron Halbrook (Fall 2014), Donnie Rader (Spring 2015), Jimmy Stevens (Fall 2015).

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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THE FEAR OF THE LORD (EXCERPT)

Donnie Rader

The Point Of Psalms 34 The point of the Psalm is that Jehovah is our provider, protector and deliverer. Albert Barnes wrote, "The general purport and bearing of the Psalm, therefore, is to furnish an argument for trusting in God in the time of trouble, and for leading such a life that we may confidently trust him as our Protector and Friend" (*Barnes Notes*, Psalms, Vol. I, P. 286).

We also learn some lessons about the fear of God and the blessings that those who fear receive.

An Outline

I. David's Praise Toward God (vv. 1-10)

A. Pledge to praise God always (vv. 1-3).

B. David's experience: The Lord heard and delivered (vv. 4-7).

C. God blesses those who trust and fear (vv. 8-11).

II. Instructions To Fear (vv. 11-22)

A. How to fear God (vv. 11-14). B. The blessings of those who fear (vv. 15-22).

A Closer Look At The Psalm David begins with a pledge to praise God at all times (vv. 1-3). In every circumstance and situation whether in trials and darkness or calmness when all is bright. In this, he makes a statement of his dedication and devotion of which he is not ashamed (v. 2). He stirs other to magnify God's name with him (v. 3).

In the next four verses David tells of how he cried to the Lord and the Lord heard and delivered him from his enemies. He shows his confidence in the Lord. It is in this section that he introduces us to the fear of the Lord (v. 7). His point is that the Lord protects and delivers those who fear God.

Verses 8-10 describe how God blesses those who trust him and fear his name. He said, "Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear him" (v.

9). He concludes the first part of this Psalm saying, "But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing" (v. 10).

The second part of the Psalm (vv. 11-22) is instructions to fear God. First, he invites all to come and learn about the fear of God (v. 11). In the next verse he tells us that those who fear God are the ones who truly enjoy life and see good days (v. 12). The writer then tells us how to see those good days (thus telling us how to fear God): (1) Control the tongue (v. 13). (2) Depart from evil (v. 14). (3) Do good (v. 14). (4) Seek peace, and pursue it (v. 14).

Verses 15-22 tell of the blessings that those who fear God receive. The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous (those who fear) and his ears are open to their prayer (v. 15, cf. 1 Pet. 3:12[9]). The Lord delivers his people from their troubles (vv. 17, 19). He redeems the soul of his servants (v. 22).

Lessons About Fear From This Psalm

There are several practical lessons we learn from this Psalm about the fear of God.

1. *Fear must be taught* (v. 11). If we fear God, we have been taught to fear God. If we want our children to fear God, we must teach them to fear God. When we wonder why some of our children have no use for God or his word, we would do well to consider that maybe we didn't teach them to fear God.

2. *What it means to fear God*. The term "fear" is equated with several other expressions in the context. These terms serve as a commentary on what is involved in fearing God. What verses 7, 9 and 11 refer to as one who "fears", v. 8 describes as one who "trusts in him". Verse 10 says "seek the Lord". Verse 15 calls this one "righteous". Verse 22 say he is a servant.

3. *The Lord protects those who fear him* (vv. 7, 15, 17, 19). The Lord cares about his people. He delivers them from their troubles.

4. *The Lord blesses those who fear him* (vv. 8-10). God gives us all that we need (2 Pet. 1:3[42]). There is no promise that the Lord would give us all we want. He did promise that he would grant all we need. While the young lion may hunger, his people will not lack any good thing (v. 10).

5. *Those who fear God are those who really enjoy life* (v. 12). Those who seek pleasure from life without the fear of God, have no idea what real joy is. In fact, they don't really understand what life itself is all about.

6. *God's listens to those who fear him* (vv. 15-22). What a privilege to have God's ear tuned to our request! Such an honor is not granted to just anyone. It is an honor bestowed only on those who fear God.

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TROUBLE

Steven Deaton (Hebron Herald, May 2005)

You are going to have trouble in life. If you think others don't have it, you are wrong. There is no man, woman, or child who does not, never has, or never will experience trouble. Trouble will come for one of two reasons, sin or righteousness.

Trouble will come to your life because of sin, either yours or someone else's. The sin of others will affect you from time to time. You may be cheated in business, the object of another's jealousy, or betrayed by a friend. These things will trouble you. However, when it comes to sin, it is yours that brings you the most trouble. Others will distrust and avoid you if you lie (Prov. 19:9; Eph. 4:25). You will have sorrow, heartache, and pain—physically and emotionally—if you drink (Prov. 23:29-35). You will be lonely if you are bitter and hateful toward your family (Col. 3:19; Eph. 6:4). The more sinful you are, the more trouble you will have.

Trouble also comes because of righteousness. Look at the lives of the faithful. Moses, Elijah, John, and Paul all had troubled lives because of their loyal service to God. Jesus is the ultimate example of one who lived right, but suffered terribly. Those who simply apply God's will to their own lives are often ridiculed and rejected (1 Pet. 4:3-4). One who boldly speaks the truth is frequently viciously attacked verbally and sometimes physically (Acts 13:44-45; 14:19). When you do the will of God, do not be surprised at the reaction of others (1 Pet. 4:12). Righteous living brings trouble to your life. Again, the more righteous you are, the more trouble you will experience.

So, what is the difference if trouble comes no matter what? One who is troubled because of righteousness has help because he has hope. This hope acts as an anchor of the soul in the storms of life (Heb. 6:19). His faith in God and His promises will carry him through difficult times. He knows there is something better. Truly, the troubles of a Christian are "light," in light of eternity with God (2 Cor. 4:7-18). The sinner has no such hope or help, only despair and discouragement. His troubles are heavy and hard to bear.

Trouble will come. Most have it because of their own sin. Some have it because of holy living. Why will you have it?