The Psalms: Infallible Inspiration For Living
Psalm 111
Inspiration To Embrace The Right Kind Of Fear

-What does it mean to fear the Lord?
-How do you intentionally model that fear daily?

Rightly fearing the Lord means living in total glad submission to Him for no other reason than He is WORTHY of it!

-Which part of the definition above (total, glad, for no other reason) challenges you the most?

Psalm 111 is divided into two parts that inform and equip our faith to rightly fear the Lord.

Psalm 111:2-9 gives three reasons we should rightly fear the LORD.

(1) His works display how immeasurably HOLY He is! (111:2-3)

-What is one thing that consistently shocks you about God?
-Which word that the psalmist uses for God's works (great, splendor, majesty, righteousness) stands out to you most? Why?
-What is one of God's works you have come to appreciate more the longer you've looked at it?

(2) His works are UNFORGETTABLE. (111:4)

-What is a simple piece of advice or encouragement that was said once and you never forgot it?
-Read 1 Peter 1:24-25 alongside Psalm 111:4: Why is it gracious and merciful that God made His works impossible to forget?

(3) His works demonstrate the TRUSTWORTHINESS of His commitment to us. (111:5-9)

-How do God's works of sending food and land to Israel coincide with our redemption today?
-Someone share your testimony in less than 1 minute
-What promise have you found God faithful to fulfill in your life?
-How has it inspired you towards greater obedience?

Psalm 111:1 & 10 give us three important practicalities of rightly fearing the LORD.

(1) Rightly fearing the LORD causes us to sincerely and publicly PRAISE Him. (111:1 & 10b)

-What are some ways fear influences praise?

-What is the significance of praising 'in the company of the upright, in the congregation' (Ps 111:1)?
-How could the Gospel influence praise?

(2) Rightly fearing the LORD is the first STEP on the path of wise living. (111:10a)

-Read Matthew 16:24-27 considering Psalm 111:10a:
-What exposes foolishness/foolish living?
-How does wisdom differ from typical success?

(3) Rightly fearing the LORD is a PRACTICE. (111:10b)

-How can a person go through Christian practices without rightly fearing the Lord?
-What is one way you can practice the fear of the Lord this week?

Challenge: Does the practice of the fear of the LORD in your life resemble a demonic, reactionary fear of consequence, or a sincere DRIVE to honor and obey the God who deserves our respect and allegiance?

Other Scriptures Mentioned: Joshua 5:13-15, Matthew 6:31-33; 13:40-43, 49-50; 16:24-27, John 12:48, Philippians 4:19-20, Hebrews 9:12, 1 Peter 1:24-25.

Discuss the Objective of the Month