

What Does It Mean to Fear God? (R.C. Sproul)

We need to make some important distinctions about the biblical meaning of “fearing” God. These distinctions can be helpful, but they can also be a little dangerous. When Luther struggled with that, he made this distinction, which has since become somewhat famous: he distinguished between what he called a servile fear and a filial fear.

The servile fear is a kind of fear that a prisoner in a torture chamber has for his tormentor, the jailer, or the executioner. It’s that kind of dreadful anxiety in which someone is frightened by the clear and present danger that is represented by another person. Or it’s the kind of fear that a slave would have at the hands of a malicious master who would come with the whip and torment the slave. Servile refers to a posture of servitude toward a malevolent owner.

Luther distinguished between that and what he called filial fear, drawing from the Latin concept from which we get the idea of family. It refers to the fear that a child has for his father. In this regard, Luther is thinking of a child who has tremendous respect and love for his father or mother and who dearly wants to please them. He has a fear or an anxiety of offending the one he loves, not because he’s afraid of torture or even of punishment, but rather because he’s afraid of displeasing the one who is, in that child’s world, the source of security and love.

I think this distinction is helpful because the basic meaning of fearing the Lord that we read about in Deuteronomy is also in the Wisdom Literature, where we’re told that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” The focus here is on a sense of awe and respect for the majesty of God. That’s often lacking in contemporary evangelical Christianity. We get very flippant and cavalier with God, as if we had a casual relationship with the Father. We are invited to call Him Abba, Father, and to have the personal intimacy promised to us, but still we’re not to be flippant with God. We’re always to maintain a healthy respect and adoration for Him.

One last point: If we really have a healthy adoration for God, we still should have an element of the knowledge that God can be frightening. “it is a frightening thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31). As sinful people, we have every reason to fear God’s judgment; it is part of our motivation to be reconciled with God.

[\(https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-does-it-mean-fear-god/\)](https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-does-it-mean-fear-god/)



4 November 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we’re glad you’re here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Proverbs #2— Wisdom vs Folly

The invitations to the simple: fear Yahweh, feast on Wisdom’s offering and find life;; or be seduced by Folly’s tempting offer and find death.

Next Week: Proverbs—various verses



Today’s Service

- Welcome and Singing** All I Have Is Christ
Be Thou My Vision
Show Us Christ
- Holy Communion**
- Offering**
- Community News**
- Bible Reading** Proverbs 9; Matthew 7:24-27
- Sermon** By Pastor Steven Tran
- Song of Response** Your Words of Life

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$4,204.60
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS INFINITE WISDOM. Praise God that with wisdom, He created the world and that His world reflects His wisdom. Thank God that His wisdom which forms the foundation for true and good living is available to us.

PRAY THAT WE WOULD UNDERSTAND that the starting point, and the key, to obtaining wisdom is the right fear of the LORD—a proper (and even frightful) understanding of the majesty of God, deep awe and reverence and a humble trust. Thank God that the gospel of Jesus Christ reveals that fear of the LORD is most to be expressed in trusting Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of God come in the flesh.

PRAY THAT BOTH THE YOUNG AND THE OLD, the simple and the wise in our church, will want to keep listening, learning and pursuing all wisdom and instruction, knowledge and understanding, prudence and discernment.

PRAY FOR THE STUDENTS who are undergoing end-of-year exams. Pray for them to consider how to glorify God in the way they think about their studies and the way they conduct themselves not just in their studies, but also in their way of life.

Community News

SAVE THE DATE: 11 NOVEMBER | YEAR 6'S AND PARENTS' CHAT WITH PS STEVEN

Year 6's and parents, please come along for a chat with Pastor Steve to find out more about SaLT next year. You are welcome to bring all your questions and concerns during this chat.

Date & Time: 11 Nov 10:40am-11am

Location: North Hall

PURPOSE DRIVEN BIBLE STUDIES WORKSHOP | 18 NOV 1:10PM-3:30PM | NORTH HALL

As Christians, we all know understanding the Bible is important, but if we're honest, it can be tricky! The Bible is a big book, with big ideas and can be hard to understand at times. What are some of the tools that we can use to equip ourselves to better read, understand, apply and teach the Bible to ourselves, our families and those around us?

This workshop aims to clarify what we're trying to do when we study the Bible—to understand and apply the purpose of the Biblical author. The Author's Purpose should drive how we understand and apply the Bible. Come equip yourself to engage with God's Word.

IGNITE TRAINING CONFERENCE 2019 | 14-18 JANUARY

Head to <https://ignitetrainingconference.com/> for registration and conference details.

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Joshua	Bryan
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Matthew <i>Alice</i>	Chi <i>Marilyn</i>
M.Tea	Winnie Tao Boon	Corina Muriel
Wash Up	SaLT	SaLT
Welcome	Philip Mee-Lan Meng Yin <i>Andrew</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Hui Xian</i> <i>Joy</i>	Philip Mee-Lan Meng Yin <i>Andrew</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Hui Xian</i> <i>Joy</i>
Stewards	Jeffrey Jordan <i>Stanley</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Aaron</i>	Jeffrey Jordan <i>Stanley</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Aaron</i>
Piano	Sylvia	Liesl
Guitar	Shao Peng	Ariel
Bass	Chuans	Aaron
Drums	Marcus	Sharne
Vocal	Shaun	Sarah/Alisha/ Joachim
PA	Li Wei <i>Jowin</i>	Matt <i>Chris</i>

Wisdom and Folly [Proverbs 9]

Intro:

1. The tale of two feasts

Feast 1—Wisdom's feast (9:1-6)

- Her house
- Her feast
- Her invitation

Feast 2—Folly's "feast" (9:13-18)

- Her 'house'
- Her 'feast'
- Her invitation

2. The Wise and the Fool (9:7-12)

a. The fool

b. The wise

c. The key

d. The reward and responsibility

Jesus on the Wise and the Fool (Matthew 7:24-27)