

must take up your cross and follow Him, through evil report and losses. But yet know, he that will lose his life for Him shall save it.

Thus, my dear children, have I according to my measure, as is my duty, counselled you. May the good Lord give you understanding in all things and by His Holy Spirit convince, reprove and instruct and lead you into all truth as it is in Jesus. So that when you have done your work here, He may receive you to glory. Now the God of truth and peace be with you, unto Whom I commit this and you, even to Him be glory forever and ever, Amen.

A powerful exhortation. Did it make a difference? Yes. Some 10 generations later, one of Obadiah's descendants is a man by the name of Dave Jones. Dave pastors a church .. and, with his wife, Peggy, is impacting thousands of marriages through speaking at .. Marriage Conferences.

Today, some 300 years later, Obadiah reminds us that nothing we leave our children will ever be as important as a conviction that God must be everything to them.

(Philippians 2:12) "Therefore, my beloved, ..., work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;" Prayer:

That God would help you "number your days," live your life for Christ and raise your children by His priorities.

Discuss: If you were to write a final letter to your children, what would you say? Do you see the fear of God as important?



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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The Final Words of Obadiah Holmes



(Philippians 2:12) "Therefore, my beloved, ..., work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;"

Obadiah Holmes and his wife gave their children a firm foundation in Christ. After speaking of this foundation in his final letter, he concluded with a list of challenging, practical ways to live out their faith:

Be you content with your present condition and portion God has given you. Make a good use of what you have by making use of it for the Lord. For meat, drink or apparel, it is the gift of God. Take care to live honestly, justly, quietly with love and peace among yourselves, your neighbours and, if possible, be at peace with all men.

In what you can, do good to all men, especially to such as fear the Lord. Forget not to entertain strangers, according to your ability; if it be done in sincerity, it will be accepted, especially if to a disciple in the name of a disciple. Do to all men as you would have them do to you.

If you would be Christ's disciples, you must know and consider that you



Discipleship

Getting to the Heart

(Daniel 5:4-6) "They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. {5} In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that



wrote. {6} Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other."

(Exodus 19:9-16) "And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, ..." ... {10} "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. {11} "And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. {12} "You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death." ...{16} "Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled."

Isaiah 6:1-5

(Hebrews 12:25-29) "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, {28} ... let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. {29} For our God is a consuming fire."

(Philippians 2:12) "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;"

(Romans 3:17-18) "And the way of peace they have not known." {18} "There is no fear of God before their eyes.""

There are four (or more) ways that the fear of God will help us as believers. The fear of God helps us because the fear of God determines the measure of:

1. Our _____,

(Exodus 18:21) "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."

(2 Samuel 23:3) "... He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God."

(Job 2:3) "... Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"



(Proverbs 8:13) "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;"

(Proverbs 14:27) "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life. To turn one away from the snares of death."

(2 Corinthians 7:1) "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

(Ephesians 4:29-30) "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. {30} And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,"



2. Our _____,

(Matthew 10:27-31) "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. {28} "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. {29} "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. {30} "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. {31} "Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

(Proverbs 28:1) "The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion."

(Deuteronomy 10:12) "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,"



3. Our _____,

(Psalms 112:1) "Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments."

(Psalms 128:1) "Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways."

(Proverbs 14:27) "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, ..."

(Proverbs 19:23) "The fear of the LORD leads to life, And he who has it will abide in satisfaction;"

(Proverbs 22:4) "By humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches and honor and life."

(Isaiah 11:3) "His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;"

4. _____ to God,

(Revelation 14:7) "... Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come;"

