

Date: 1 September

Preacher: Ps Paul

Sermon Title: Fear God – Not Man

Bible Reading: Proverbs 29:25

Outline

- Worldly opinions and values are the air we breathe everyday (Rom 12:2)
- If *fear of man* finds a place in our thinking it will erode our fear of God (Matt 6: 24)
- And then we will lose sight of our true place (Isa 6:1-5 and Col 2:8)
- But our hope lies in what God says about us, not the world (Isa 6: 6-7)
- For the fear of God sets us free to live (Ps 34:8-11)

Small Group Questions/Discussions

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe (NIV)

The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that (MSG)

Man's values and opinions are the air we breathe every day. It's like passive smoking. What aspects of human thinking go against "fear of God"? Human thinking would promote a view of God formed by our emotions. What we want. What would God look like if He was to be pleasing to mankind?

The bible tells us that we cannot serve two masters – what will happen if we try and live a life that fears God and man? How does this temptation play out practically in your life in other words -What aspects of human thinking can you be drawn to? What is your response to the truth that the bigger people become in our life the smaller God gets?

Why is it important for us to understand our true place without God? Why is so key about us seeing ourselves as sinners before God? What is the problem with letting our emotions and feelings determine our understanding of truth?

How can "*Sinners in the hands of an angry God*" be a means of real blessing? What does God say about us? What should be the most dominant thought that we have about this?

How does fear of God draw us to Him? Once drawn to God, what is it that we experience? What's the alternative, where does fear of man lead us? What is our experience if we go that way? Fear of man incorrectly influences what we see as our actual needs. How can this cause us tension with God's provisions? Read Ps 34 : 8-18. Why is it far better to have a fear of God over a fear of man?