

FEARING THE WRONG THINGS

Introduction – The media fills the news with the fear of an epidemic of Ebola or being beheaded by an Islamic terrorist. We are afraid of the health of the economy or being the victim of crime. We are more likely to die of natural causes, a fall at home, the flu, or a car accident. Jesus challenged the fears of His peers.

Luke 12:4-5

A. Fear of the Lord in the Old Testament

1. You have to start somewhere.

Proverbs 1:7

2. There is a good reason to obey and fear the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

3. The fear of the Lord is only the beginning of a spiritual life.

Proverbs 16:6

B. Jesus changes our attitude toward fear.

1. Fearful thinking leads to a life of worry and anxiety.

Matthew 6:31-34

2. Jesus turns our anxiety into a state of peace.

Philippians 4:6-7

3. The love of Christ frees us from fear.

1 John 4:17-18

Conclusion – Do not let others manipulate you with fear mongering. Replace your fear with faith and the confidence that comes from your relationship to God.