Introduction

“I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:2-3

“Love the Lord your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38

When we put God first in our life, the Bible has a word for that. It is called reverence.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Proverbs 9:10

I. We are to fear the Lord because he is our Father. Verse 17

It is a remarkable thing that we can call on God as our Father.

The pagan world knew nothing like that. Their gods were capricious and malevolent.

If God is our Father, then we should desire to please him.

The desire to please our parents is one of the strongest desires of children.

II. We are to fear the Lord because he is our Judge. Verse 17

We need to remember that the one we call Father is also the Judge of all the earth.

He will judge each one’s work impartially.

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:13

God’s grace is not a license to sin.

“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, I know him, but does not do what he commands is a liar and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 2:3-4

Obedience is the proof of our faith.

“No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.” 1 John 3:6

III. We are to fear the Lord because he is our Savior. Verses 18-21
We are to honor God because he is the one who saved us.
He purchased our salvation not with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.
Not only that, Peter tells that Christ was chosen to be our Savior before the world was made.
Even before there was a Garden in Eden, there was a cross on Calvary.
He is “the lamb slain from the creation of the world.” Revelation 13:8
How does that make you feel?
How does that make you want to live?

Conclusion

We are to fear the Lord because:

- He is our Father.
- He is our Judge.
- He is our Savior.