

Notice the last sentence above - "**there is no fear of God before their eyes**"! Most people who are not saved, who are not ready for heaven, have no fear of God - because they have no idea how much God hates sin. They have no idea that they are one heart-beat away from being hurled into eternal hell. They are comfortable in their sins and comfortable with their self-righteousness. They use their own standards for righteousness instead of God's so they have this false sense of security that all is well. They say:

"After all, I am not as bad as so-and-so. Surely God will accept me. God forgives. We just have to be sorry for what we have done."

Do people really believe their own lying hearts? Can you go to a judge in traffic court and get away with a speeding ticket by using the same logic. Could you get away with saying:

"Well your honor, I am not as bad as other drivers. I could have been driving 100 miles per hour in the 25 mile an hour zone, but I was only driving 75 miles per hour. I am sorry for what I did. I believe you are a forgiving judge and so I believe you will not hold me accountable for anything I do."

This is the attitude many people have about God and His handling of sin, mainly because they do not see themselves the way God sees them. God says that we are separated from Him from birth, we are born with a corrupt sinful nature:

"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." (Psalm 58:3)

God must convert us and give us a new nature so we are fit for heaven:

"And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted**, and become as little children, **ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**" (Matthew 18:3) "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26)

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No Fear?

Many people think that fear is always something to be avoided, something unhealthy or a sign of weakness. But fear is not always bad. Fear of punishment can keep us out of trouble and out of jail. Fear of disease and death can cause people to seek treatment from a doctor. Fear of God's wrath (eternity in hell) can cause people to seek peace with God before it is too late: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). The Bible describes fear of God in a very FAVORABLE light:

"The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7)

Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. When we fear God it is because we are beginning to understand that He is a holy and righteous God whom we need to fear:

"For our **God is a consuming fire.**" (Hebrews 12:29)

"Vengeance is mine; **I will repay**, saith the Lord." (Romans 12:19)

Please take note that God did not say "I might repay", or "I may repay". God **promises** to repay the sinner for the wages of his sins. Is that not a sobering thought? How many sins have you committed all your life? Probably millions upon millions of sins according to the Bible, considering what God calls sin - all our evil thoughts, words, and deeds:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the **thoughts** of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5)

"But I say unto you, That every idle **word** that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (Matthew 12:36)

"Give them according to their **deeds**, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert." (Psalm 28:4)

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Most people have no idea how holy God is. They think that by saying a few prayers or by doing a few good deeds, God will be happy with them and that He will forget all about their violations of His commandments. However, God is insulted by this idea, that we think we can somehow pay for our sins or contribute towards our salvation:

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and **all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6).

"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, **have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**" (Romans 10:3).

There is absolutely no way that we can pay for our sins. They must be completely removed, completely blotted out and that is something that only God can do. That is something that God the Father does through God the Son - Jesus Christ - who paid the penalty for sin for all those He came to save. Are you one of those Jesus came to save? How do you know? Have you been converted by God?

God must punish sin. The severity of that punishment is proportional to how holy and righteous God is. Eternal punishment is the only just punishment for violating the laws of an infinitely holy God.

What fools we are when we think that our meager efforts to appease God will gain us entrance into heaven. Would you offer a penny to an artist for his priceless masterpiece? Would you, after murdering a man's son, think you could make up for that vicious act, by telling the man that you will not murder any more of his children, you are planning to turn over a 'new leaf'? These ridiculous analogies do not even begin to compare with what we are trying to do with God Almighty, OUR Creator whom we owe everything to, when we try to earn our way to heaven through religious rituals, good deeds, prayers and similar efforts on our part.

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Looking back at Proverbs 1:7, we see that it says: "fools despise wisdom and instruction." Isn't it interesting that people that do not fear the Lord are called fools by God? Why is that? Well the Bible explains: "it is abomination to fools to depart from evil." (Proverbs 13:19). Fools are those who do not think that it is necessary for themselves to fear God. Fools think that there is no God: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Psalm 53:1). Fools think that God does not see them, but the Bible says: "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Proverbs 15:3). Fools think that God is all loving and all forgiving regardless of whether a person repents of his sins. But that is not what the Bible says:

"except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

Contrary to popular opinion, God does not love everybody unconditionally. In fact, God hates many people: "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: **thou hatest all workers of iniquity.**" (Psalm 5:5)

The Bible makes it very clear WHY we need to fear God:

"And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." (Luke 12:4-5).

We must fear God because He has power to cast us into hell for all eternity. But what about you personally? Isn't it just murderers and other openly wicked and rebellious people who need to fear God and need to fear hell? No, my friend, it is not just those kinds of people. God considers everyone ever born as a hopelessly lost hell-deserving sinner: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ... **There is no fear of God before their eyes.**" (Romans 3:10-12,18)

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