The Fear of the Lord:
A Pure Delight

I. Welcome / Intro

A. Greeting

B. Illustration: The Grand Canyon: Awe, Silence, (healthy) Fear (of real danger), Clinging, Safety (security), Gratitude, (respectful) Enjoyment

C. My text today: Isaiah 11:1-8 (Messianic)

D. My topic today: The Fear of the LORD: A Pure Delight

- I'll set the stage by reading the text and commenting briefly
- Focus on something intriguing: The fear of the Lord was Messiah's Delight!
- Learn all we can, and apply it to our own lives

II. This Morning's Text

A. (1) **The Incarnation of the Son of God as the Promised Messiah**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

B. (2) **His Anointing at the River Jordan as the Redeemer: God's Anointed Prophet, Priest, King**

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge ***and the fear of the LORD.***

C. (3a) **His Delight (and our text for today!)**

And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

D. (3b-4) **His Righteous Judgments: Then on Earth and Now in Heaven**

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, [4] but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth . . .

E.G. The paralytic, the sinful woman: Your sins are forgiven you!

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment ***i****s righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. – John 5:30*

[21] But now, apart from law, a righteousness that comes from God has been revealed. It is attested by the Law and the Prophets, but comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe (for there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God). As a gift, and by his grace, they are justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set out as a propitiatory sacrifice, effective through faith in his shed blood. He did this in order to demonstrate his righteousness, since, in the forbearance of God, he had passed over the sins that were previously committed, yet always with a view to the demonstration of his righteousness at this present time, so that he might be both *just and the justifier of all who have faith in Jesus. —Romans 3:21-26*

E. (4) **His Righteous Judgment at His Second Coming and the Consummation of His Heavenly Reign**

. . . and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

[10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved in blazing fire, and the earth—and the works done in it—will be laid bare. [11] Since all these things will be dissolved in this way, what kind of persons *should you be, conducting* yourselves *in holiness and godliness, [12] looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be dissolved by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat? [13] Nevertheless, in accordance with his promise* ***we*** *are looking for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. – 2 Peter 3*

G. (6-8) **The Eternal Fruits of His Heavenly Reign: The World to Come**

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. [7] The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. [8] The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. // They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

III. Our Text Raises Three Interesting and Important Questions

A. Why would the Divine Messiah walk in the fear the Lord?

B. Why would the fear of the LORD be His Delight?

C. How exactly did He walk in the fear of the Lord?

IV. Why Would the Divine Messiah Walk in the Fear the LORD?

- Because He was the Last Adam
- Because He was on probation, just like the First Adam (*posse peccare*)
- Because any sin would necessarily be a failure with the direst of consequences!

- Some poignant testing points: His baptism at the Jordan; his temptation in the wilderness; his agony in Gethsemane
- Test, Temptation, Fear, Obedience, Visitation, Delight!

V. Why Would the Fear of the LORD be His Delight?

- Because He knew (and clung to) His Father's Purpose and Plan for His life
- Because He knew that this fear was His Fathers gift to Him, to enable Him to finish His course in victory and joy
- Because it kept him close to the God he loved, enabling him to hear his voice, do His will, and experience His pleasure in seeing it fulfilled

VI. How Exactly Did He Walk in the Fear of the LORD?

- By walking in the Spirit with His Father

Therefore Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own initiative; rather, the things I speak, I *speak just as my Father* has *taught me.* ***29*** *And he who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do the things that please him." – John 8*

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. – John 14

- **A good example (John 11):** Testing, Temptation, Fear, Obedience, Victory, and Joy!
- The fear of the LORD was a Pure Delight to our Lord!

VI. How Can the Fear of the LORD be a Pure Delight to Us, His Redeemed Children?

A. One Big Answer: By walking in the footsteps of Christ; by seeing Him as our Example and Way-Shower

B. Three Smaller Answers Contained in the One Big Answer:

1. By viewing it as God's gift to his New Covenant people

37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell in safety. 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that

they will not depart from Me. [41] Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul.' – Jeremiah 32

- Healthy Fear is real fear of real dangers (HSL)
- Healthy Fear sees this fear as a gift from the sovereign God, given for our good

2. By growing in our understanding of his eternal purpose and plan for his New Covenant people

- **Beginning fear (HSL)**
- Which can become **crippling fear** (1 John)
- Which produces a felt need of **clinging: to Christ, the Scriptures, and the Church**
- Which leads to the **discovery** of the sovereign God's eternal purpose and plan for our lives:

And we know that God works all things together for good for those who love God, for those who are the called according to his *purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined* to be *conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] Moreover, those whom he predestined, he also* ***called****; and those whom he called, he also justified; and those whom he justified, he also glorified.*

- Effectual Calling (plus the opening of Scripture) leads to SEEING (HSL: Wrath Replaced by Love)

- SEEING *delivers* us from crippling fear and *anchors* us in healthy fear, gratitude, and delight

"Moreover, I say to you who are *my friends: Don't be afraid of those who* can *kill the body, after which there is nothing more that they can do. On the other hand, I will show you whom you should* indeed *fear: Fear him who, after he has killed, has* the *power to cast into Gehenna. Yes, I tell you, fear him*! *// Are not five sparrows sold for two small copper coins, yet not one of them is forgotten before God? But* as for *you*, *even the hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid: You are of greater value than many sparrows!" – Luke 12:4-7*

And we have come to know and trust the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. That is how love is perfected among us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; for just as he is, so too are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear; for fear involves punishment,[8] and he who fears has not been perfected in love. [19] We love because he first loved us. – 1 John 4

(How Firm a Foundation) Here?

3. By walking in the Spirit with Christ (John 10, 15; Romans 8; Gal. 6)

- This is how Christ walked
- Like Christ, we too may know God's love, pleasure, fruitfulness, peace, and joy

V. **Summary and Concluding Illustration**

A. **Summary***: By viewing the fear of the LORD as God's gift to his New Covenant people, by growing in our understanding of his eternal purpose and plan for his New Covenant people, and by walking in the Spirit with Christ, we too, like our Lord, will walk in a healthy balanced fear that will keep us close to the God of love, tender to his voice, and fruitful in his service. In short, the fear of the LORD will be to us a Pure Delight!*

B. **Concluding Illustration: John Piper quote**

C. **How Firm a Foundation (Isaiah 43)**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."