

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 129. Living in reverent fear



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** 1 Peter 1:17 – 21

Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Exodus 34:6-7a; Micah 7:19; Job 19:25 - 27

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

Receiving this letter from Peter would have been so exciting! As Peter was one of the original disciples, his letter would be a prized possession. In it, he encourages the churches to think of God in the right way and have the right attitude to God. God loved us enough to redeem us, but we still have to answer for our behaviour and our work in His name. We should not be so comfortable with His 'Father' title that we forget that God is also called 'The Almighty.'

Some people can be really terrified of God, thinking He is like a headteacher waiting to punish us for our failings. That is not how God is. And He does not want us to be afraid of Him. The 'reverent fear' Peter is talking about means that we should acknowledge that God is that powerful, but that it is outweighed by unimaginable love for us. We should love and respect Him for both reasons – and not be quaking in our boots!

Peter calls those reading his letter 'foreigners' because, as Christians, they are citizens of God's Kingdom and so he is inviting them to think of themselves as foreigners here in this world. He also reminds us that we were redeemed from our sins with the blood of Christ, which is far more valuable than any other precious thing that exists on earth.

Our access to God is through Jesus. Jesus gave Himself as the sacrifice and God raised Him from the dead and took Him home to Glory. It was all done to bring us back into a good relationship with God. How wonderful that we can experience God's love and forgiveness while we are still far away, here on earth. We can only imagine what it will be like when we reach our Heavenly Home.

### Reflections:

- God has a great many names and titles, like 'Prince of Peace' or 'Alpha and Omega.' Can you think of any others? Which one helps you most at the moment?
- Fear is a negative emotion. If we have confessed all our sins to God, we have no reason to be fearful. Our sins are in the 'sea of His forgetfulness' and no longer affect us. If there is anything you need to say sorry for, make sure you do not put it off.
- Joy is a God-given emotion. In Job 19:25, the writer speaks about seeing God and is full of joy at the thought. This is a verse you might want to underline in your Bible, or even learn.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



# REVERENT FEAR

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

