

**(Matt. 10:26)** -- It is only natural to be frightened and alarmed by those who hate and try to persecute us over the Gospel. It is part of our natural desire for self-preservation. The only fear that we naturally lack is fear (reverence and respect) of God (Rom. 3:18). When the Holy Spirit gives us life and faith in the new birth, He imparts within us a true fear of God that drives us to Christ for all salvation, righteousness, and eternal life (Heb. 4). This is not our natural legal fear that motivates self-righteous works trying to establish our own righteousness before God (Rom. 9:31–10:3). Our hope in salvation by God's grace is that our fear of God will overcome our fear of men. So, the Lord tells us **"FEAR THEM NOT THEREFORE"** because He has defeated all our enemies (the world, the flesh, and the devil) for us by His obedience unto death as our Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, Life-giver, and Preserver.

**"FOR THERE IS NOTHING COVERED, THAT SHALL NOT BE REVEALED; AND HID, THAT SHALL NOT BE KNOWN"** - As stated before, those who hate and seek to persecute God's children over the Gospel often do so under the guise of religious zeal (John 16:1-3). They have a covering for their sin as they themselves are deceived and by which others are deceived by them. The Gospel exposes their deception (John 3:19-20; 15:22), and this is why they hate this message of truth. But in the end, their deception will all be revealed (exposed) before the whole universe. What appeared righteous unto men will be exposed as evil and an abomination to God. But the true children of God will also be revealed and proclaimed righteous by God's grace in Christ (Jer. 23:6; 33:16). God's people will be vindicated before all people.

**(Matt. 10:27)** - **"WHAT I TELL YOU IN DARKNESS, THAT SPEAK YE IN LIGHT: AND WHAT YE HEAR IN THE EAR, THAT PREACH YE UPON THE HOUSETOPS"** - The Lord tells them that what He had taught them privately and personally in secret, they were to proclaim it loud and clear, publicly, for all to hear. He had been preparing them to preach publicly. The message of Christ, of God's sovereign grace, of righteousness established by the blood of Christ is never to be compromised, concealed, or hidden. We are to preach it whenever and wherever we have opportunity (Psa. 40:6-10; Matt. 5:13-16). Those who hide the light that exposes darkness in order to remove the offense of the cross and gain the approval and praise of unbelievers reveal themselves to be false believers (John 12:42-43).

**(Matt. 10:28)** - **"AND FEAR NOT THEM WHICH KILL THE BODY, BUT ARE NOT ABLE TO KILL THE SOUL: BUT RATHER FEAR HIM WHICH IS ABLE TO DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL"** - The most that our enemies can do to us is to kill our bodies. And we are not to pretend that this is something we naturally fear and try to avoid. Even as sinners saved by grace, we are still human. But we are to realize that physical death is inevitable (Rom. 8:10; Heb. 9:27), it is a blessing for those who are washed in the blood of Christ and clothed in His righteousness imputed. It is our passage into the eternal blessedness and bliss of glory (Luke 23:42-43; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; Php. 1:21-23). However, those who fear men and do not fear the Lord will find that God is able to destroy both body and soul in hell. The destruction of the soul is described in God's Word as "everlasting destruction" (2 Thess. 1:9). A just and holy God is to be revered (Isa. 8:13), and man is not to be feared at all (Prov. 29:25).

**(Matt. 10:29-31)** - **"ARE NOT TWO SPARROWS SOLD FOR A FARTHING? AND ONE OF THEM SHALL NOT FALL ON THE GROUND WITHOUT YOUR FATHER. BUT THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE ALL NUMBERED. FEAR YE NOT THEREFORE, YE ARE OF MORE VALUE THAN MANY"**

**SPARROWS.**” God’s sovereign and divine providence, His governance and rule over the earth, extends even to the smallest creature such as the sparrow. Sparrows were considered the most common and plentiful of creatures. If God’s care reaches these birds and none die apart from His sovereign will and purpose (Luke 12:6), now much more is His providential care upon His children who are far more valuable to Him than sparrows (Matt. 6:26; Luke 12:24)? He who has a perfect knowledge of the number of hairs on our heads takes care of His children who were chosen in grace, adopted into His family, redeemed by His blood, justified by His grace, called by His power to faith in Christ and made heirs of an eternal inheritance. The disciples must not fear men nor any of the troublesome events of life because their lives were ordered by the Lord (Psa. 37:23). Many will say, “God is in control,” but they do not really believe this. They believe in a false god who is some kind of “cosmic chess player,” i.e. we make our moves, and he makes his counter-moves. Some portray him as a “heavenly janitor,” i.e. we go along in life messing things up, and he comes behind cleaning up our messes. This is the God of the Bible “*Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will*” (Eph. 1:11). The true and living God declares “*that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose*” (Rom. 8:28), and this is because HE is working all things together to accomplish His purpose “*that we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ*” (Eph. 1:12).

**(Matt. 10:32-33)** - “*WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL CONFESS ME BEFORE MEN, HIM WILL I CONFESS ALSO BEFORE MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN. BUT WHOSOEVER SHALL DENY ME BEFORE MEN, HIM WILL I ALSO DENY BEFORE MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN.*” Confessing Christ boldly before men is evidence of God’s power and grace in the lives of His people. We cannot and do not earn our salvation by confessing Christ publicly, but we do prove ourselves to be true children of God in our confessing Christ. Therefore, if we refuse to confess Christ before men, He will not confess us before His Father which is in heaven. If we deny Him before men, He will deny us before His Father. Lack of confession reveals a false confession of faith (John 12:42-43). True godly confession begins with the Holy-Spirit conviction of Gospel truth to the point that we cannot ignore, deny, or abandon it (Rom. 10:8-10). The Greek word for confess here means “covenant” or “assent.” Christ is speaking of an agreement we have with Him. Our part is to confess, or represent, Him in our lives. We do this by trusting Him in His promises to care for us and by testifying of it through our doctrine and our lives. The first act of public confession is the New Covenant ordinance of believer’s baptism. In this ordinance by immersion in water we confess our unity and identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. The act of believer’s baptism has no saving value, but it is a confession that our salvation was fully accomplished by Christ’s obedience unto death as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer (Matt. 3:15).

To confess Christ before men is to declare that HE IS THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION, and there is no other way (John 14:6; Acts 4:10-13). It is to declare the glory of His Person as God manifest in the flesh, the power and success of His finished work as saving all for whom He died and arose again, and the preservation of all whom He saves by His grace and power. It is to call sinners to faith in Christ and repentance of their dead works and idolatry. We confess Christ before men when we ascribe all glory to Him for salvation, publicly unite in the fellowship of faith with the people of God, participate in the ordinances He gave to His church (believer’s baptism and the Lord’s Supper), and when we tell the truth to those who ask us about our hope of salvation and eternal glory in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:15).