

Eleutheros Newsletter

August 2026

Thoughts on Romans

[3:18](#) *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Having described man's depravity so thoroughly ("none that understandeth" in [3:11](#); "there is none that doeth good, no, not one" in [3:12](#); man's body is afflicted with what Paul explains as a "throat as an open sepulcher," "poison of asps is under their lips," their "mouth is full of cursing and bitterness," and "their feet are swift to shed blood," Paul now briefly exposes **another** serious problem in man's nature.

When he wrote "There is no fear of God before their eyes," he was describing **a lack of reverence**.

Several hundred years before God delivered the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai, Abraham had a relationship with God that manifested itself in reverent fear: "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I AM the Almighty God; walk before Me and be thou perfect. And I will make My covenant between Me and thee because he was afraid and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face..." ([Genesis 17:1-3a](#)). Abraham had a healthy respect for Who God is.

This idea is a consistent theme throughout Scripture. God manifested Himself to Moses in the burning bush incident, demanding that he take off his shoes because His presence made the area holy. Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look upon God ([Exodus 2:5-6](#)). Moses had a healthy respect for Who God is.

The Psalmist wrote about the importance of genuine reverence: "Thou, even Thou, art to be feared: Let all that be round about Him bring presents unto Him that ought to be feared" ([Psalm 76:7, 11](#)).

Solomon understood the importance of fearing a holy God: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" ([Proverbs 1:7](#)).

Isaiah wrote about reverence for God's glorious majesty: Enter the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of His majesty" ([Isaiah 2:10](#)).

A word from Jeremiah: "Who would not fear Thee, O King of nations? For to Thee doth it appertain; forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto Thee" ([Jeremiah 10:7](#)).

Consider this from Zephaniah: "Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God" ([Zephaniah 1:7](#)).

The New Testament is replete with the emphasis on reverence as well!

God demands quiet solitude, reverent fear, and awe about Who He is, but unregenerate man is depraved, not even wanting to appreciate His will, His Word, or His ways. In fact, apart from the grace of God, he is **unable** to produce such an attitude!

Question: how much genuine reverence is there today in many of our *Gospel preaching churches*?

This author has an opinion, of course, but God's opinion is the only one that counts! What does He think when there is so little emphasis on holiness? Is He pleased by so much Sunday morning conversation about vacations, sports teams, and work situations? Are people getting "beyond the obvious" in their understanding of God's power, love, omniscience, holiness, omnipresence, and sovereignty?

More About Jesus

Eliza E. Hewin

May God's people be aware of what He has revealed about this in His infallible Word!

Perhaps the words of this great hymn will help in some way.

More about Jesus would I know; more of His grace to others show;

More of His saving fullness see; more of His love Who died for me.

More about Jesus on His throne; riches in glory all His own;

More of His kingdom's sure increase; more of His coming—Prince of Peace!

We will continue these thoughts on Romans in next month's newsletter.