**The Type of Man the World Needs**

Psalm 112

**Proposition:** The man who fears the Lord will reflect the character of God.

**Application:** Intentionally grow in your relationship with the Lord.

**Introduction**

Psychiatrists call the fear of things *phobias.* There are people who fear heights – called *acrophobia.* There are people who fear closed-in places – *claustrophobia.* There are people afraid of water – *hydrophobia.* And dogs and even other people. Then there is *Abbaphobia* – the fear of being a Dad (I made this up). There is one fear that drives out all other fears and we read about it in Psalm 112.

Happy Fathers Day. I hope what you hear this morning from Psalm 112 is not a list on what to improve on but rather encouragement regarding what you are doing right.

Psalm 111 ends with the words *the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord.* Psalm 112 goes on to describe what the *fear of the Lord* looks like. Psalm 111 is about God. Psalm 112 is about the man of God. The godly man reflects the character of God.

Each line in Psalm 112 begins with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet– called an acrostic. This suggests that the God-fearing man is complete in his obedience to the commandments.

**I. The Man Who Fears the Lord** (112:1b): Godliness is a blessing not a burden. The God-fearing man fears the Lord in private and in public. Yet this man has another fear, the fear he might ruin his walk with the Lord by his sin.

**A. Greatly delights in the Word of God** (112:1c): We may find it easier to delight in God’s promises than in His precepts. The type of man the world most needs makes obedience to God his number one priority. The Word of God is as fascinating to the man of God, as the Works of God are to a scientist.

A man who fears the Lord delights not only in the study of God’s Word, but even more he delights in living it out. His chief desire is to do the will of God in daily life. Because he loves the Lord, he delights to do His will more than to receive reward for obedience. He obeys out of love for the Lord, not for the sake of reward.

**Read** Ps 40:8

The man who fears the Lord does not need to be swayed to do God’s His will. He does not need to be coerced to obey its precepts. There is no arm twisting. To him the will of God is indeed good, perfect, and pleasing.

**Illustration:** King Solomon Menelik II ruled Ethiopia from 1889 – 1913. This monarch brought Ethiopia into the modern age by introducing communication, transportation, and public education. But he had a few odd habits. When he felt sick, he would eat two pages of the Bible! Over the years this worked quite well. Then in December 1913, he suffered a severe stroke and believed that by eating the complete Book of Kings he would recover. His doctors fed him page by page, but sadly he died before he could finish eating the Book of Kings.

**Transition:** The type of man the world needs delights in the Word of God, not by eating it but by obeying it. Not by hearing it but by doing it. The man who fears the Lord steadfastly trusts in the Lord God.

**B. Steadfastly trusts in the Lord God** (112:7, 8)

The heart of the man who trusts in the Lord is as secure as the Word of God.

**Read** 111:7b, 112:7b; 111:8a, 112:8a

As God’s Word is unshakeable, so the man’s heart is unshakeable. No man of God is exempt from seasons of trouble. No man of God is immune to misfortune. There are setbacks for the man who fears the Lord, but the trend is always forward. He knows all trials end for the better. For the man of God, the darkest night of sorrow and trouble will have a dawn of hope.

*Light in darkness* (112:4a): Every man will face his dark days; bereavement; suffering; disappointment; job loss; money setbacks; health issues; marriage breakdown, even personal sin. God does not remove the darkness, but He does give light to guide us through the dark days. This is not referring to guidance to make the right career choice. Rather it is the wisdom to know how to get back when we have lost our way. Even though we may wander into darkness, disaster, or distress, those who are upright (godly) possess light to return when they have strayed.

**Illustration:** I read a story about the son of missionary parents who got lost in the jungles of Africa. One late afternoon he had ventured away from his home with rifle in hand to see if he could hunt some game. He happened upon an antelope and quietly followed it. Unaware how far from home he had drifted. It was getting late.

He started to head back by retracing his steps but soon the sun was set, and it was too dark to see. He could hear his parents shouting at a distance as well as the roar of a lion. The boy called out to his parents, “put on the lights! Put on the car lights!” They did and the light dispelled the darkness, scared the lion away and the son safely returned to the haven of his home.

Light in darkness is not promised to every man, but light is promised to the man of God when he walks through a dark tunnel.

How can we discern the light of God from the counterfeit light of the evil one? Satan masquerades as an angel of light. He too gives light to those in darkness. But his light, his wisdom is deceptive.

God’s wisdom is found in His Word. His Word is the light that guides us through darkness.

**Read** Psalm 119:105

*Fearless in adversity* (112:7ab): The man of God is not immune to adversity. He will face circumstances that give reason to fear. The same storms that come upon the ungodly also fall on the godly man. The difference is in the response. Even when adversity may come out of the blue whether it be the threat of war, a crash in the financial markets or a natural disaster that wipes out his assets, the man of God will be fearless in adversity because his heart is fixed on God.

We have many reasons to fear. The danger of COVID; the risk of job loss; the threat of violence. Every man has ample cause for tension, stress and worry, and yet no adversity or calamity should frighten the man of God. He is not afraid because he accepts calamity with calm. He is fearless because the Lord is his refuge.

**Illustration:** A man named Robert Griffo was living the high life at an investment firm on Wall Street. He was making a lot of money. He used to walk over homeless people in Manhatten when they were asking for money, and he would say 'You need to get a job.' One day, on October 19. 1987, a day known as Black Monday, Griffo's life tumbled along with the stock market. Day after day he would watch his co-workers get escorted out of the building. His day also came. To cope he started using drugs. Not long after he ended up on the streets, leaving his wife and children behind.

The man who delights in the Word of God and steadfastly trusts in the Lord is fearless. He does not lose courage in the face of great adversity. When the raging storms come, he faces them head on because he is promised a good outcome.

He can then sing the words of the great hymn “It is well with my soul.” “When peace like a river attendeth my soul, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, ‘it is well, it is well with my soul’

**Read** Psalm 126:5 – 6

**Transition:** The type of man this world needs is a man who delights in the Word of God, is a man who steadfastly trusts in the Lord. Such a man will be greatly blessed.

**II. Is Himself Greatly Blessed**

**A. With Integrity**

*Righteousness* (112:3b – 4, 9): What is said of God in Ps 111:3 is said of the man of God in Ps 112:3 (**Read it)**. This phrase is again repeated 112:9 (**read it**).

What is true of God is also true of God’s man. This divine righteousness is given to the man of God and this divine righteousness continues for the man of God. He possesses a righteousness that is not his own. In the same way, we too have a righteousness not derived from law obedience. We have a righteousness given to us by God through the agency of faith in Christ Jesus.

The world needs to see this righteousness lived out! The man of God, the one who fears the Lord, the one who greatly delights in His Word, the one whose heart is fixed on the Lord, is the type of man the world desperately needs. Not only is he blessed with righteousness, but he is also gracious.

*Gracious* (112:4b, 5): What is true of God is also true of God`s man. What is said of God is 111:4b is also said of the man of God in 112:4b. His graciousness overflows to others. His graciousness is seen in his generosity. A man who fears the Lord will be gracious according to his means. If a man has little, he will be gracious with the little he has. If he has much, he will be gracious with the much he has.

**Transition:** The type of man that the world needs is righteous. The type of man that the world needs is gracious.

**B. With Income**

He is also blessed with *sufficient income* (112:3a): He is blessed with sufficient income, not necessarily a lavish income. And his income does not cause him to forget the Lord. The temptation with material goods, whether we have much or whether we have little, is to set our hearts on it and be pre-occupied with it. The man who fears the Lord puts material wealth in its proper place. Behind his preoccupation with the Lord.

**Read** Matt 6:33

The type of man the world needs is a man whose orientation is not the acquisition of wealth but his orientation is to trust in the Lord and to live out the Word of God in the everyday affairs of life.

**Transition:**  A man who fears the Lord is himself greatly blessed with integrity and with sufficiency.

**III. Is a Great Blessing to Others**

The godly man not only benefits himself but also his household. Dad’s you have a huge influence on your children.

**Illustration:**  Research has shown over and over again that a father’s involvement is as crucial to a child’s healthy development as is the mother’s. Positive father presence is linked to positive social, emotional, and cognitive outcomes for children from infancy to adolescence, even into adulthood. Not only that, a father’s presence also provides much needed stability to the family structure. So dad’s never underestimate the power of your influence.

**A. His generation** (112:2b) Most men of power use their influence for personal gain, the man who fears the Lord, uses his influence to persuade his contemporaries to follow the path of righteousness.

**B. His household** (112:2a): The Lord delights to bless the children of the father’s who love the Lord. He blesses them by giving them influence. They become pillars of society. They become stabilizing forces.

The father who fears the Lord will pass on his legacy to his children so that they in turn may persuade their generation to follow the Lord.

**Conclusion**

Men, as you intentionally grow in your relationship with the Lord, you will prove to be a blessing to your family, in your friendships, in your workplace, in your neighbourhoods and in this world. Because a man who fears the Lord is the type of man this world desperately needs.