

Ball 2: 7 - Not afraid of Bad News

INTRO: What is the most frightening sound -
- the fear of evil tidings - we live w/ the awareness that life is fragile, nothing guaranteed

Heb 2:14,15 - "who thru fear of death were subject to save all their lives." The fear of death causes men to do things they would not otherwise do - the fragility, uncertainty of life - causes us to live materialy, selfishly, etc. It intimidates us.

- But here is a man who does not live in continual apprehension of bad news.

I - What kind of Person? v.1 - Blessed is the man who.

(1) Fears the Lord ^{this is one of the blessings of the man who}

(2) greatly delights in his commandments

It is a life, not an isolated detached ability - what then be made whole.

1. This is part of the whole, just one facet of his character, just one brick in the ~~stone~~ structure - Review the Psalm -

v.1 - the blessed of the man who fears + delights - v.2 ff describes these blessings. It is not an isolated ability but one part of the whole.

2. This is not sudden, emergency act - a house is built w/ many bricks, not one huge one. It's too late to learn to swim when the flood strikes

3. many want part but not the whole - "What then be made whole?" we want healing but not holiness; we're interested in what D says about finances but not forgiveness.

4. two-fold description → [He fears the right thing]

(1) Fears the Lord - O.T. way of saying he is a Oly man, committed to X

Augustine: "Fear D + you need fear nothing else."

(2) "delights in his commandments" - note - "greatly & delights."

Not "does" them, but delights in them. Inward delight must precede the outward obedience - this commitment is real, genuine - not a matter of religious duty.

Spurgeon: "Hypocrites may rejoice in doctrines but never in commandments."