THE FEAR OF THE LORD

It is God Himself who puts it in our hearts to seek Him. and makes it possible in some measure to know Him, and He is pleased with even the feeblest effort to make Him known.

When the Psalmist saw the transgression of the wicked, his heart told him how it could be. There is "No Fear of God before his eyes" he explained and in so saying revealed to us the psychology of sin. When men no longer fear God, they transgress His laws without hesitation. The fear of consequences is no deterrent when the fear of the law of God is gone.

In olden days men of faith were said to walk in the fear of God, and to serve the Lord with fear. At the base of their religious life was the conception that God is awesome and dreadful. This idea of God transcendent runs through the whole Bible and gives color and tone to the character of the saints. This fear of God was more than a natural apprehension of danger.

Whenever God appeared to men in Bible times the results were the same. An overwhelming sense of terror and dismay. A wrenching sensation of sinfulness and guilt. When God spoke, Abraham stretched himself upon the ground to listen. When Moses saw the Lord in the burning bush, he hid his face, afraid to look upon God. Isaiah's vision of God wrung from him the cry "Woe is me" and the confession "I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips."

"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life" but this healing fear is today hardly found among Christian men. The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Let us be wise.