

## “Whom or What Shall I Fear?” Luke 12:1-7

- I. Introduction: “Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power/authority to cast into hell” Luke 12:5 So who or what should we fear? Man, Satan or God?
- II. Don’t Fear Man. Luke 12:4 Man can condemn to earth but not to hell.
- III. Should We Fear Satan?
  - A. I could not find one text that says we should fear Satan. Satan has no power or authority to cast into hell since he himself is to be cast there. Matthew 25:41
  - B. We should fear the one that condemns us. Revelation 12:10 says Satan can only accuse, he can’t condemn us.
- IV. Should We Fear God?
  - A. God has the power and authority to cast into hell.
  - B. But this interpretation does not fit with the rest of the text. Luke 12:6&7
  - C. The “fear of God” that is spoken of in the Bible is respect mixed with love. Like the love and respect that we have for our father.
  - D. Satan uses fear. 1 John 4:18 says that perfect love casts out fear. It is inconsistent with a God of love if He suddenly has to use fear.
  - E. Fearing God might be understandable if He was the One who condemned us. But Romans 8:31-34 makes it plain that He is not the one who condemns us, but the One who saves us.
- V. The Greek Word “exousia” carries with it the sense of ability. Other possible definitions given in the Greek dictionary: privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, delegated influence, authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, and strength.
- VI. What or Who Is It that Condemns Us? John 3:16-21
  - A. John 3:18 says that we condemn ourselves.
  - B. John 3:19 says, “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil”.
- VII. We Should Fear the Love of Darkness.
  - A. Ephesians 4:17&18 speaks of those whose understanding has been *darkened* and alienated from the life of God. This is the hypocrisy that Jesus was warning about in Luke 12: 1-3
  - B. Acts 26:18 speaks of those sent to turn people from *darkness* to light and from the power of Satan unto the power of God.
  - C. 1 Peter 2:9 speaks of us who have been called out of *darkness* into His marvelous light.

- D. In John 8:12 Jesus says that He is the light of the world and that those who follow Him will not walk in *darkness*, but shall have the Light of Life.
- E. "For you were once *darkness*, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)
- F. Let us make a Declaration of Independence from *Darkness* as we follow the Light of the World and daily choose to be Children of Light.