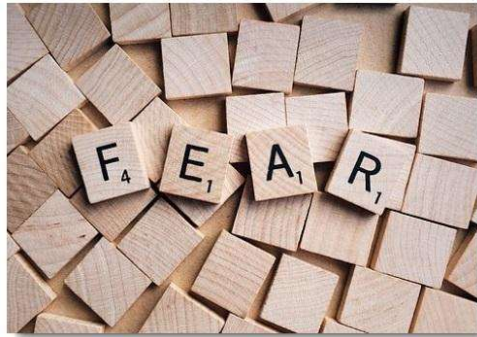




March 15, 2020 – Rick Myatt



## THE ARCH ENEMY

1st in a Series on the Pandemic

**Passage: Romans 8:15** - Topic: Fear

This past Sunday, Rick preached his first sermon from his living room. He gave an apt message for a world in pandemic: it was about fear.

He talked about the prevalence of fear amongst us humans, and we looked at Romans at the passage that says we are no longer slaves to fear, meaning that we were previously. He explained that humans' basic, biggest fear is God's condemnation. It's natural, understandable, and appropriate. Death comes in a close second.

But the believer in Christ no longer has to fear God's condemnation, or death, for that matter. Jesus paid a very high price to do away with them.

But we still have fears, of a wide variety of dangers. And Rick explained that fear itself is often a bigger, more real danger than the object of our fear. It can do damage physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. And it can also cause us to compromise on our ethics and beliefs (think, Peter denying Jesus three times). It can derail us from our mission.

Rick gave us two important aspects of fear: it is contagious, and it is not always rational.

To answer what can be done about our fears, Rick gave us these three reminders:

Recognize that God hasn't given us a spirit of fear. Distinguish between fear from God (self-preserving, appropriate, life-giving) and fear from the enemy (who is out to destroy us). Rick said, "The healthy fear from God doesn't make me feel sick inside, it doesn't fill me with anxiety, it doesn't make me obsess over" the thing we fear. The fear from God "leaves me calm, at peace, but being wise about what I do."

Remember who your Father is. Trust Him and speak to Him. Focus on the Lord and you will be freed from fear.

Live the adventure. What God's desire to do in your life is to give you abundant life...an adventure. But inherent in adventure is *risk*. And Godly fear is the correct response to risk. And the only way to truly trust God is when He takes away all of our self-devised supports so we have to rely on him alone.

Rick suggests these actions in scary times:

- Trust God.
- Be of good cheer: He is with us.
- Don't be faint-hearted.
- Focus on our Heavenly Hope.
- Be wise, careful and smart.
- Pray for one another, encourage one another, care for one another.
- Live the adventure!