Growth Through Grace, Not Fear

2 Kings 9:1-13, 10:28-36 (ESV)

I. Jehu's bloody reign...

A. Foreshadows the final _____ that Jesus will carry out, but

B. Failed to _____ Israel to a place of fruitful security.

C. Demonstrates that he didn't _____, love, or honor Yahweh. Instead, he served a caricature of Yahweh shaped by the _____.

II. As we compare Jehu with Jesus, two principles become evident:

A. Fear of _____ can change people's _____.

1. When rightful authorities enforce accountability to clear rules, that encourages doing _____ and discourages doing _____ (Westminster Confession, 19-6).

2. Doing right from fear is _____ than doing wrong, but God _____ obedience flowing from a renewed heart (Westminster Confession, 16-7).

B. Only _____ the God of _____ changes the heart.

1. Unlike Jehu, Yahweh _____ with His willingness to show _____.
2. Through His death, Jesus _____ the rightful wrath of God toward our sins —this is mercy toward us!
3. Because of Jesus, we can _____ the God of grace and be changed in ways Jehu never experienced.

III. Fear of punishment may change behavior. But only _____ the God of love changes our _____.

A. You:
   1. God's fatherly displeasure with our sin—and His warnings about punishment and discipline—are tools God uses to _____ us.
   2. But His ultimate intent is for us to enjoy a clear conscience and a sense of His _____ in daily communion with Him.

B. Your household: fear of discipline or parental displeasure may shape your children's behavior, but only knowing the God of mercy can _____ their _____.

C. Your politics: fear of the sword may restrain evil, but the sword alone will not _____ _____.