Paralyzed by Fear
Matt. 28:4

Introduction:
A. Fear can be helpful.
   1. Need a wholesome fear of God. (Matt. 10:28).
   2. Need a wholesome fear of danger – physical and spiritual.
B. Fear can be harmful.
   1. Fear can make us cowardly (Rev. 21:8).
   2. Fear can literally paralyze one (Text)
C. Fear has paralyzed many of us in various areas of responsibility.

Discussion:
I. Parents Are Often Paralyzed by Fear.
   A. Afraid to insist on “old morality” (Eph. 6:4; Gal. 5:19-21) – afraid of being left-out socially.
   B. Afraid to make children attend services – afraid they will grow up to resent it.
      1. What about school?
      2. What about work?
      3. What about good health practices?
   C. Afraid to have rules and enforce them by discipline – afraid will alienate children
      1. Cannot measure effectiveness by present reaction (cf. Heb. 12:7-11)
II. Christians Are Often Paralyzed by Fear.
   A. Afraid to “take part in service” – afraid of mistakes.
      1. Super-critics add to this fear.
      2. Be careful to do it right – but do it – humans will make mistakes.
   B. Afraid to speak the whole truth to our brethren and neighbors (cf. Acts 20:27)
      1. Afraid it will cause controversy.
         b. Paul’s and Peter’s friendship survived controversy (Gal. 2:11-14; 2 Pet. 3:15).
      2. Afraid it will drive people away (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-2)
      3. Afraid they will reject our efforts (cf. Acts 20:26).
   C. Afraid to “take sides” in controversies – afraid of accusations of bias.
      1. Some controversies do not have right and wrong side. (Paul & Barnabas).
      2. Many other’s do have a right and wrong side – should take right side (2 Tim. 4:16, 17).
   D. Afraid to say what is needed – afraid will say wrong thing (Ecc. 3:7; Acts 18:9).
      1. It is true that more say too much than too little (cf. Jas. 1:26).
      2. It just as bad to say too little as it is to say too much (cf. Acts 18:9; Boy on wagon, at school)
   E. Afraid to aggressively pursue the work of the church – afraid will slip up and get it wrong.
      1. So afraid of supporting the wrong preachers – support none.
      2. So afraid of helping dead beats – do not help the deserving.

Conclusion:
A. Take necessary precautions to do all things right – then do them!
   1. God will bless your efforts to do his will.
   2. God will forgive your mistakes (1 John 1:7-2:1)
B. Don’t be afraid of obeying the gospel – afraid will not hold out to the end.