The Fear of the Lord

Lack of it in society:
- Makes everyone afraid, especially the righteous - Gen 20:11; Isa 59:15
- Destroys the foundations of society
  - Roles and functions of men and women are denied and attacked - Rom 1
  - Law is whittled away until there is no right or wrong
  - Education is hijacked to promote godless ideas and causes
  - The arts are corrupted to the gratification of the basest instincts of the flesh
  - And religion is vilified, made to represent something hated and despised - or twisted to the honor of things that are no gods
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom - Prov 9:10
- It is hatred of evil - Prov 8:13
- By it, society thrives and can be more at ease - David, 2 Sam 23:2-4
- To the patriarchs, God was known as "the fear of Isaac" - Gen 31:42, 53
- Jehoshaphat appoints judges and commands them to let the fear of the Lord be upon them - 2 Chron 19:5-7
- The fear of the Lord is "clean, enduring forever" - Ps 19:9

What prompts this fear of the Lord:
- His power
  - Manifested in the Creation - Rom 1:18-20
  - Manifested in His providence - Acts 14:17
  - Manifested in fulfilled prophecy - Isa 44:7-8
  - Manifested in miraculous signs - Mt 11:20
- His promise of judgment in the end - Ecc 12:14
  - He made it, He will destroy it - 2 Pet 3:10-12
  - He will judge the world by His Son - Acts 17:31

How do we come to fear the Lord?
- Instruction - Ps 34:11
  - It is the beginning of knowledge - Prov 1:7
  - Should begin with parents - Deut 6:1, 7; Prov 22:6, 15
  - The word of the Lord - Ps 19:8-9

What the fear of the Lord does:
- Gives us wisdom - Ps 111:10
- Can give us a much better life here - Prov 10:27; 14:27
- Determines how we treat others - Gen 42:18
- Prepares us to meet Him
  - Our Lord's delight was in the "fear of the Lord" (Isa 11:3)
  - Everlasting steadfast love on those who fear him - Ps 103:17
  - Gives us an inheritance with His saints - 2 Cor 7:1 (context)
  - Makes us want to persuade others - 2 Cor 5:11

Conclusion:
- Ecc 12:13