

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:” Colossians 3:2-6 KJV



We reap what we sow. Trouble is in our lives, quite simply, because *“The wages of sin is death.”* Death is separation from that which gives life. The land dies when separated from water. The leaf dies when separated from the tree. The body dies when separated from the soul and spirit. Men are *“dead in trespasses and sin,”* because they are separated from God who is Life. Sin separates us from God. Adam and Eve died the day they sinned, because God left them and cursed Creation. He created them for companions and they forsook Him for self-gratification and lies. They gave up Omnipotence for impotence! Every soul born is under God’s wrath; the blindness of unbelief from the bloodline of Adam; and the condemnation of separation from God! Men are not born believers. They must hear God’s Word. *“Faith cometh by hearing...the Word of God. He that BELIEVETH NOT is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* Only when God reveals Himself through His Word and the gift of faith given thereby, can men understand their blind and hopeless state. They’re given an opportunity to once again be God’s friend. No one can say they do not know of God, because *“The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth His handiwork.”* Men choose condemnation for momentary self-gratification! *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful.”* They assume Providence a right and wallow in their own condemnation with glee! *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.”* They lament the harvests of their own sowing as if wickedness had perpetrated itself upon them undeserved! They are blind to the Truth that God’s Wrath is upon them and they have fallen into their own pit! God’s *“cup of Wrath”* fills before He empties it. The wicked think they’ve escaped God, but they craft their own eternal demise! God, who repays a hundredfold, has promised, *“Vengeance is mine; I will repay!”* Goldsmiths fire gold to purify it, God tests faith to purify it. *“The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”* They are neither punitive nor earned, but are gifts. Job said, *“He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold!”* Faith shines brightest in the fire!

When sin and doubt have wounded me,
The reasons are quite plain to see,
If I would walk with God all day,
There’d be no falls along my way. -CGP

Christian martyrs of the Spanish Inquisition glorified God as they sang His praises in the fires of their burning stakes! Fire rids gold of impurities! *“Run with patience the race that is set before us, and let patience have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing!”*

“Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2 KJV