

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all Holy (obedient) conversation (behavior) and godliness.” 2 Peter 3:11 KJV

Knowing AND understanding are prerequisites of wise choices. In this epistle the Apostle assumes the readers believe God’s Word; without which men always make blind foolish choices! You cannot tell you whether the food you are eating is laced with disease or poison without knowledge and trust of the hands which prepared it. Think of the trust you place in restaurant kitchens and staff when you go out to eat. Granted, sanitation is just good business, but still, there are really no guarantees. I recently watched a cooking show in which one of the judges wouldn’t eat a prepared dish because he saw the food had been dropped on the floor. Would he have eaten it otherwise? You get my point. Many folks read or know God’s Word, but it makes little, if any, difference in how they live which proves they don’t really remember or believe it. If they did, things would change. *“For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass (mirror): For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect Law of Liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. A falling away”* from the Truth is predicted to sweep through the ranks of believers before the return of Christ. *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”* Jesus said it this way, *“The love of many shall wax cold.”* What you really believe determines how you act and live regardless of what you say. You may go to church every week and still not be a true believer; however, this does not imply Church is unnecessary. *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the Day approaching.”* If you don’t SEE the Day of the Lord approaching, you are *“willingly ignorant!”* You may think you believe, but if you do not know AND obey God’s Word, you are an unbeliever! Visiting the garage every week doesn’t make you a car, but it’s where cars are repaired. Working in a hotdog plant doesn’t make you a hotdog, or even like them, for that matter, but it is where hotdogs are made. Knowing God’s Word doesn’t make you a believer, but it’s how believers are made. How many times have you heard someone say, *“I just don’t SEE it!”* You can look at something, but not SEE it. Remind you of math class? There is no wisdom nor understanding without God’s Word and the Holy Spirit to guide you! *“The entrance of Thy Word giveth Light (SEEING), and understanding to the simple. The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”* If you do not fear God, you do not know OR believe Him! *“Our God is a Consuming Fire!”* You can’t fully appreciate His Love until you appreciate His Power and Wrath from faith in His Word. *“Knowing this first, that no Prophecy (manifest Truth) of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (always substantiated by other Scriptures). For the Prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* IT IS WRITTEN!



Believing God will make you see,
Exactly what you ought to be,
His love will draw you heart and soul,
His pow’r will keep you truly whole! ~CGP

“Familiarity breeds contempt,” is an old saying meaning; you respect those less with whom you are intimate, than those you do not know. Only disobedient children fear Mom’s wrath. I never feared my friend’s mom, but mine was another story altogether and let’s not even talk about Dad! It seems children who grow up in church are the first to forsake it when they leave home. I grew up as a missionary kid and have seen many preacher’s kids, even my own family, turn away from God. It wasn’t because Mom and Dad erred, it was because the children didn’t SEE what they were looking at. If God dealt as openly and severely with the Church today as He did with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), we would need less pews and have more true believers! *“And great fear came upon all the Church, and upon as many as heard these things.”* Why did they fear? Because they believed! If you do not fear God, you do not believe God!

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of Judgment and Fiery Indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.” Hebrews 10:26-27 KJV

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