

*"And the Anger of the LORD Was Hot against Israel; and He Said, 'Because That This People Hath Transgressed My Covenant' Which I Commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto My Voice; I Also Will Not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:" Judges 2:20-21 KJV*



Like starving children, the disobedient are more concerned with quenching desire than with remedying the cause of their want. Believers are plagued by sin's consequences "because" of some small refusal to comply with God's Word. We rationalize our deeds with, "What's wrong with it? – There's no Scripture forbidding it. – God will forgive me. – It won't hurt anyone but me." Paul put it this way; *"But take heed lest by any means This Liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."* Just because I don't see the harm doesn't mean it's nonexistent. The trap is always baited with good food! We never know who is looking to us for a role model; who might be destroyed by some "Liberty" we indulge. Not to put too fine a point on it: If I cause a brother to sin by indulging some questionable practice, it is a sin that may prevent God's Deliverance Or Providence for me. It doesn't mean walking about in a Puritanical zeal, but *"proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. [Walking] circumspectly, (Be aware and alert) not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* Walking circumspectly means a carefulness to consider all circumstances and possible consequences beforehand; prudent: *"Counting the cost."* The more of God's Word I retain, the wiser I am, and the better able to determine my next step. If the world engages in an activity, it's probably wrong and a believer should *"abstain from all (any) APPEARANCE of evil."* Want to be right every time? Know God's Word and obey It!

Because I left and went astray,  
God cannot ease distress today,  
If I repent, return to Him,  
He will forgive my ev'ry sin! –CGP

Don't allow little sins to bring God's "Because" into your life! It will multiply sin's consequences on you. Let God's Word *"Dwell in you richly"* and Order your steps with Wisdom That Only Comes from knowing God. *"The steps of a good man Are Ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in His Way."* Men must be the Guardians of Truth in their own life first, and just because you do not proclaim Truth to others does not exempt you from God's Commands or the Punishment of disobedience! Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Unbelief blinds and damns! If you can't see your way clear to obey God, you are guilty of unbelief! Hell is a horrible eternity – why risk it when escape is so easy? Why condemn your friends with your own unbelief? How many are blinded by your disobedience? You cannot credibly warn the dying if sick yourself! God isn't a crutch – He Is A Healer!

*"Prove ALL (not just some) things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of Peace Sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be Preserved Blameless unto The Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful Is He That Calleth you, Who Also Will Do It." 1 Thessalonians 5:21-24 KJV*