

"Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined." Psalm 10:1-2 KJV

Pleasure entices men to sin. Men refuse to acknowledge the Truth that nightly meets any skyward gaze. Before electricity, the only light at night was firelight. Starlight is a magnificent sight when no other light is shining – as God intended; a timeless display of Truth! *"The heavens declare the glory of God. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard!"* Wickedness is most always committed in secrecy or darkness. *"Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."* The best home security is outside bright lights. If men will not repent, *"Let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined!"* The words "Love the sinner" are not in the Bible! *"Love thy neighbor as thyself,"* yes, but is a thief, murderer, or rapist your neighbor? We are to have compassion on them, preach the good news of the Gospel of Truth, and live a life of obedience that will compel repentance. God's Word says, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* Compassion is righteous pity, not affection. If I am passionate about Truth, I need no affection to have compassion. Warn with compassion, invite with Truth, and nurture with love those who love and obey the Lord Jesus. We ARE commanded to love believers. *"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* Those who disobey Him are God's enemies. *"Love your enemies"* is charity and kindness, not tolerance. *"Turn the other cheek"* is not seeking revenge rather than submission. *"Give him thy cloak also"* is sacrificially filling a need, not giving in. It doesn't say "If a man kills your child, give him your wife also." Or "If a man steals your lawnmower, give him your house also." Family is a gift from God. *"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD."* Protection is necessary for these gifts from God. *"If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."* I am of that same mind about protecting my family as the old Quaker who told the thief, "I would not harm the for the world, but thou art standing where I am about to shoot!" I also believe *"Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and ALL these things shall be added unto you."* I do my best to practice it and I know God is true! Also, I've learned to be content with what He gives me. Discontent is covetousness!

Let wicked men run out their course,
Be not afraid of might or force,
With kindness warn of God's soon wrath,
That men may walk in Truth's safe path. ~CGP

If you think believers are to just roll over and play dead under evil attack, you may be surprised if you visit my house with wicked intent. I just may introduce you to God! I sincerely try to live *"peaceably with all men,"* but I will protect my family to the death! By the same token, if you do not lead your wife and children in the path of eternal life by word and example, you are *"worse than an infidel!"* The local Assembly you are a part of is *"the household of faith,"* and you have the same obligations there as at home. Pray for, preach to, and have compassion for the lost – love, nurture, and protect family; making sure they walk in Truth, because:

"Whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire." Revelation 20:15 KJV

