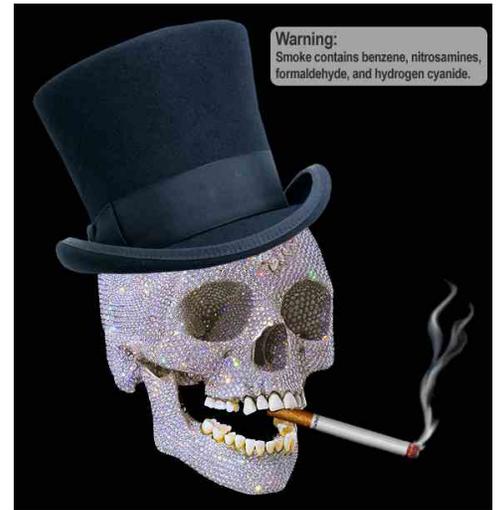


"And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." *Romans 7:10-12 KJV*

One cigarette will not kill you, but each one smoked destroys tissue. One shot or a beer will not kill you, but it destroys what cannot be healed. If our body were transparent like glass and we could actually witness the damage we do to ourselves in the name of pleasure, we probably wouldn't do it. Sin's rot comes to the surface, eventually, and is visible to all. The Law of God exposes the rot and death of sin. *The Commandment, which was ordained to Life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the Commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the Law is Holy, and the Commandment Holy, and just, and good.*



Things that look white in the dark, appear dingy and soiled in the light. Sin slew Adam in the garden by separating him from God. Death is the absence of life. God is Life and separation from Him is death. God cannot, nor will He ever tolerate sin. There is no "little sin" with God! *For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* One "fib" makes you worthy of hell! When we first believe Truth and cry to God for salvation, every sin causes us anguish, but as we continue our pilgrimage, sin bothers us less and less. We say, "Oh, it's just a little sin." Or "I can't help it." Like the tender hand first blistered on the tool handle, we develop calloused hearts and no longer feel the abrasiveness of the sin that is separating us from God who is Life. A callous is just many layers of dead skin. It loses feeling. It's like a cattle brand, it permanently scars and deadens! *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, having their conscience seared with a hot iron.* Like the newly married couple who could not stand to be separated while courting, soon begin to spend hours and days apart without once feeling the pain of separation. "Little sins" drove spikes into Jesus' hands, crowned Him with thorns, and lacerated His back to the bone. *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.* "Little sins" slew our Lord at Calvary. When we begin to view the "little sins" as the wounds our Lord suffered, they will once again, as at our conversion, cut us to the bone with conviction. We will not stand for one moment of separation from the Lover of our soul!

The smallest sin is no less death,
Than sins of greatest height or breadth,
All caused the wounds Our Master bore,
That we might garner Heaven's ore. ~CGP

We decorate and tolerate the "little sins" to make them less putrid, like burial spices for the dead, but they are deadly nonetheless. The most beautiful fruit becomes death with the tiniest injection of cyanide. You dance around a viper long enough it will kill you. Don't dance with the vipers of sin! *Make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.* Alcoholics should stay away from bars and believers should *Abstain from all appearance of evil.* Makeup may make a corpse look better, but it's still dead.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:13-14 KJV