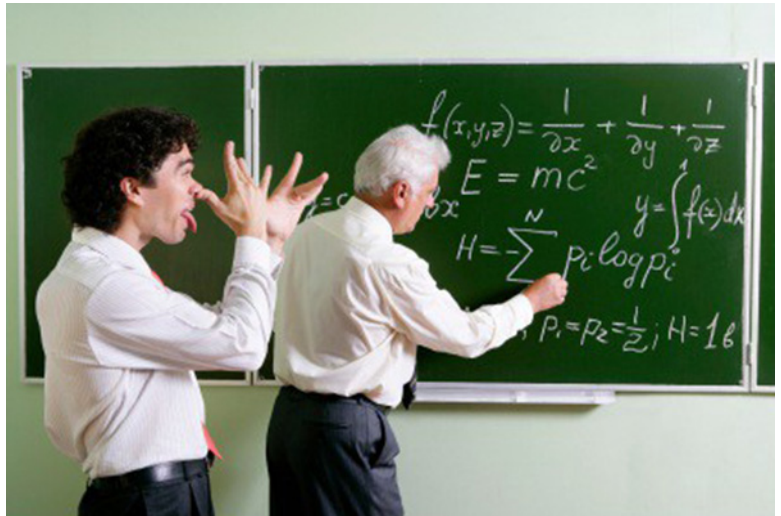


“Turn you at my Reproof: behold, I will pour out my Spirit unto you, I will make known my Words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my Counsel, and would none of my Reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they (fools) hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my Counsel: **They Despised All My Reproof.**” Proverbs 1:23-30 KJV



We must fear God to love Him. His Mercy, Grace, and Love would hold no value if we at first did not acknowledge His Wrath, Power, and Presence. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Only a fool would stand and laugh at a charging bear! “Fools make a mock at sin [and] a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” There is an old saying that holds to this Truth; “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread!” I see it born out daily as men routinely mock God with their lust and reason! Disobedience of God’s Word mocks Him; basically calling God a liar. If we truly believe, we will surely obey and repent immediately of any sin of which we become aware! Repentance is a 180° turn to opposite purpose or direction. Sin is ANY disobedience of God’s Word. Therefore repenting is a return to obedience. “ALL have sinned.” The good news is, “God commendeth His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And He is the Propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Hereby we do know that we know Him, IF we [obey] His [Word].” Sin is the bane of us all, but obedience and the consistent return thereto are the evidence of true faith.

All fools will mock the faithful God,  
 E’en though His Word their conscience prods,  
 And though He died to save their souls,  
 They will not call to be made whole. –CGP

If you truly wish to escape the black flames of the Lake of Fire, repentance is not an option! “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great Commandment. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the Lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the Second Death.” Obey God, live forever; disobey and die forever!

“For in [Christ] we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now **COMMANDETH ALL MEN EVERY WHERE TO REPENT:** Because He hath appointed a Day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by [Christ] whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.” Acts 17:28-31 KJV