

# What A Scorners Seeks

Proverbs 14:6

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*“A scorner seeks wisdom, and finds it not: but knowledge is easy to him that understands.” – Proverbs 14:6.*

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One of the things that we see in our modern society is the tendency to express oneself with a small or a larger degree of sarcasm and/or mockery. There are a couple different words used, depending on the English version you are using. In the Scripture, you may see scorner or mocker, a noun which speaks of someone who jeers, mocks, or treats something with contempt, or perhaps, who calls out in derision. It can actually speak of anyone who speaks in a negative or scoffing manner. It can be used to tear down, to speak derisively, even to being boastful or in a fashion that seems to put on airs or encourages another to think less of what is being spoken of.

The Bible actually has a LOT to say about those who indulge in “scorn”:

Of course...we all know that David told us that the sufferings of Christ, at least in part, involved his being “scorned”:

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*Ps 22:6–8 But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; **They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,** 8 “He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”*

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Similarly, Isaiah the Prophet said that scorn would be a part of Jesus’ experience:

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*Is 53:3 He is **despised and rejected** by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

***Luke 18:32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon.***

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The Gospels tell us that, once he was here, Christ endured as a reaction to what He said and did:

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***Matt 9:24 He said to them, “Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him.***

***Matt 27:29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”***

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Similarly, we’re see that believers endure mockery as a part of a response to their spiritual living, that it will be because of several things:

1. Being children of God.

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**Gen 21:9** *And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.*

**Gal 4:29** *But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.*

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2. Their uprightness.

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**Job 12:4** *“I am one mocked by his friends, Who called on God, and He answered him, The just and blameless who is ridiculed.*

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3. Their faith.

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**Heb 11:36** *Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.*

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4. Their faithfulness in declaring the word of God.

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**Jer 20:7–8** *O LORD, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me. 8 For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, “Violence and plunder!” Because the word of the LORD was made to me A reproach and a derision daily.*

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5. Their zeal for God’s work.

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**Neh 2:19** *But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?”*

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The Scripture also tells us that the wicked engage in, against a number of Biblical matters:

1. They mock the truth of the second coming of Christ.

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**2 Pet 3:3–4** *knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”*

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2. How many have we heard mocking the gifts of God’s Holy Spirit.

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**Acts 2:13** *Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”*

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3. It seem very common these days for unbelievers to mock God’s threatening.

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*Is 5:19* That say, “Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know it.”

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*Jer 17:15* Indeed they say to me, “Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come now!”

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4. Of course, it has, for all man’s presence on this earth, for the unredeemed to mock God’s servants:
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*2 Chr 36:16* But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

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5. Likewise, men have long mocked what we can call “God’s ordinances”.
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*Lam 1:7* In the days of her affliction and roaming, Jerusalem remembers all her pleasant things That she had in the days of old. When her people fell into the hand of the enemy, With no one to help her, The adversaries saw her And mocked at her downfall.

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6. Believers.

I think that, as children of God, we can all relate to the truth the unredeemed have the unfortunate habit of mocking believers, namely, those who trust the Lord:

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*Ps 123:4* Our soul is exceedingly filled With the scorn of those who are at ease, With the contempt of the proud.

*Lam 3:14* I have become the ridicule of all my people—Their taunting song all the day.

*Lam 3:63* Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their taunting song.

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7. It seems, in this last day, that it has become the habit of many to mock the truth of the resurrection of the dead.
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*Acts 17:32* And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.”

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8. I think, because of the libertine attitude of the vast part of our society there has come to be a common mocking of all off Gods’ solemn admonitions.
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*2 Chr 30:6–10* Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: “Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of

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*you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. 7 And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. 8 Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. 9 For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him.” 10 So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them.*

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6. Isaiah said that what were, in the OT, called “Idolaters” were addicted to mockery:

*Is 57:3–6 “But come here, You sons of the sorceress, You offspring of the adulterer and the harlot! 4 Whom do you ridicule? Against whom do you make a wide mouth And stick out the tongue? Are you not children of transgression, Offspring of falsehood, 5 Inflaming yourselves with gods under every green tree, Slaying the children in the valleys, Under the clefts of the rocks? 6 Among the smooth stones of the stream Is your portion; They, they, are your lot! Even to them you have poured a drink offering, You have offered a grain offering. Should I receive comfort in these?”*

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7. David and Hosea say that what are called Drunkards, interestingly, are addicted to mocking or making fun of others:

*Ps 69:12 Those who sit in the gate speak against me, And I am the song of the drunkards.*

*Hos 7:5 In the day of our king Princes have made him sick, inflamed with wine; He stretched out his hand with scoffers.*

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There are several traits that the Bible tells us are shared by those who are addicted to it:

1. Solomon said that many Mockers actually “Delight” in the doing of it.

*Prov 1:22 “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.*

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“Delight”, of course, refers to taking pleasure or enjoying a thing. We can readily see the negativity involved in taking pleasure in such a thing. But it is evident that many, many people so do.

- Solomon also tells us that Mockers are “contentious”, a very negative quality in the OT that speaks of arguing, putting down, speaking a fashion that is argumentative and hurtful.

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**Prov 22:10** *Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.*

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Many are puzzled by the fact that the Bible says that those who indulge in the scorn of others are, themselves scorned by God. Admittedly, were it not for the truth that God often demonstrate His holy and righteous nature on those who violate His commands and His desires for the deliberate disobedience what He requires, it would be difficult to get hold of this.

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**Prov 3:34** *Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.*

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- It is common knowledge that, generally speaking, those who are habitually scornful are actually hated by men.

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**Prov 24:9** *The devising of foolishness is sin, And the scoffer is an abomination to men.*

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- It seems, at times, that some think that scornful comments are “funny”, Are avoided by believers.

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**Ps 1:1** *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*

**Jer 15:17** *I did not sit in the assembly of the mockers, Nor did I rejoice; I sat alone because of Your hand, For You have filled me with indignation.*

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- Walk after their own lusts.

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**2 Pet 3:3** *knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,*

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- Are proud and haughty.

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**Prov 21:24** *A proud and haughty man—“Scoffer” is his name; He acts with arrogant pride.*

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- Do not listen to rebuke.

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**Prov 13:1** *A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

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- Do not love those who correct.

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**Prov 9:8** *Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.*

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*Prov 15:12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.*

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9. They will not go to the wise for their counsel (because they see them as basically useless).

*Prov 15:12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.*

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10. Because of their wickedness in being Mocking, They bring others into danger.

*Prov 29:8 Scoffers set a city aflame, But wise men turn away wrath.*

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11. It is interesting also that God says that they shall themselves endure the mocking they have given out.

*Ezek 23:32 "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'You shall drink of your sister's cup, The deep and wide one; You shall be laughed to scorn And held in derision; It contains much.'*

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The NT, in discussing Prophecy says that Mockery will be a Characteristic of the last days:

*2 Pet 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,*

*Jude 1:18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.*

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As we have already hinted, but in a more severe fashion, Scripture says that a "Woe" will be pronounced against Mockery:

*Is 5:18–19 Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; 19 That say, "Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know it."*

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Similarly, We are promised that there will be punishment for indulging in Mockery:

*2 Chr 36:17 Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand.*

*Prov 19:29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers, And beatings for the backs of fools.*

*Is 29:20 For the terrible one is brought to nothing, The scornful one is consumed, And all who watch for iniquity are cut off—*

*Lam 3:64–66* Repay them, O LORD, According to the work of their hands. **65** Give them a veiled heart; Your curse be upon them! **66** In Your anger, Pursue and destroy them From under the heavens of the LORD.

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There are a number people which we can look to in the Bible to see they way it is illustrated in human behavior:

1. Ishmael.

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*Gen 21:9* And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

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2. The children at Bethel.

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*2 Kin 2:23* Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!”

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3. Ephraim and Manasseh.

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*2 Chr 30:10* So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them.

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4. The chiefs of Judah.

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*2 Chr 36:16* But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

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5. Sanballat.

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*Neh 4:1* But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.

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6. The enemies of Job.

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*Job 30:1* “But now they mock at me, men younger than I, Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.

*Job 30:9* “And now I am their taunting song; Yes, I am their byword.”

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7. The enemies of David the King.

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*Ps 35:15–16* But in my adversity they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know it; They tore at me and did not cease; **16** With ungodly mockers at feasts They gnashed at me with their teeth.

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8. The rulers of Israel.

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**Is 28:14** *Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem,*

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9. The Ammonites.

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**Ezek 25:3** *Say to the Ammonites, 'Hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you said, 'Aha!' against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Israel when it was desolate, and against the house of Judah when they went into captivity,*

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10. The people of Tyre.

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**Ezek 26:2** *"Son of man, because Tyre has said against Jerusalem, 'Aha! She is broken who was the gateway of the peoples; now she is turned over to me; I shall be filled; she is laid waste.'*

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11. The heathen.

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**Ezek 36:2–3** *Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because the enemy has said of you, 'Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession,' " ' 3 therefore prophesy, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because they made you desolate and swallowed you up on every side, so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations, and you are taken up by the lips of talkers and slandered by the people"—*

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12. The soldiers who punished Christ.

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**Matt 27:28–30** *And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.*

**Luke 23:36** *The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,*

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13. The Chief Priests.

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**Matt 27:41** *Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,*

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14. The Pharisees.

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**Luke 16:14** *Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.*

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15. The men who held Jesus.

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**Luke 22:63–64** Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. **64** And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, “Prophesy! Who is the one who struck You?”

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16. Herod.

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**Luke 23:11** Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

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17. The people and rulers at the crucifixion.

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**Luke 23:35** And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.”

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18. Some of the Pentecost multitude.

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**Acts 2:13** Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

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19. The Athenians listening to Paul.

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**Acts 17:32** And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.”

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So, as we have said it is easy for us to see the evil of indulging in Mockery and the various reasons why any believer ought to see why they ought to take whatever steps are needful to be sure that it is not (or no longer) a part of their communications to others.

Just to rehearse our interpretation - The “*scorner*” here is one who, in his self-sufficiency, despises authority and instruction, and attempts to gauge truth by the line of his own intellect. From such a one Divine Wisdom hides herself, or presents only an obscure front like an undeveloped photograph. But “*to him that understandeth*” (and “*to depart from evil that is understanding*”), who approaches truth with the right moral and spiritual dispositions, - to him it is made easy, for him the Spirit of truth guides into all truth.

As we noted, there are quite a number of illustrations that go a ways to show us just what is intended by Scripture here:

- When Jesus was upon earth the Pharisees (those typical scorners) often put questions to Him, but were none the wiser. They said, “*We see,*” and so remained in their blindness and sin (John 9:41).
- Herod would witness a miracle, but, being a scorner, was denied one.
- Pilate asked “*What is truth?*” but with no earnest desire for an answer, therefore none was given him.

- To the disciples, because inquirers and teachable, “*it was given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,*” but to others, not like-minded with them, it was not given (Matt. 13:11).
- Nathanael and the Ethiopian, in their ingenuousness and childlike simplicity of heart, were made “*wise unto salvation.*”

By way of thinking about application we note that extremes are always to be avoided, for the truth lies between them. We need not choose, then, between rationalism and superstition, but must guard carefully against either. The latter would make truth to reside in the letter of Holy Scripture or else in the dogmatic teaching of the schools. The former appeals to a verifying test in the human intellect and conscience. In both there is an absence of that true humility which, counting our own wisdom as folly, looks up to God for guidance in all things. He, by His Word and through His Church, has indeed revealed all that is necessary to salvation. But it is one thing to have the truth, another to apprehend it. As a Churchman, I have it not only in my Bible, but explained and formulated in the Prayer-book. And yet I may remain “*blind*” as the Pharisee of old if I receive it as a mere tradition, and am not “*taught of God.*” Still worse, I may “*perish*” with the “*despisers*” if I lean to my own understanding, and trust to my own “*culture,*” and deem myself sufficient in myself for the mastery of divine philosophy. From self-sufficiency, it is but a single step to scorning. Many who have approached revelation *only* from an intellectual point of view, have lost themselves in the mists of unbelief. But the grandest as well as the humblest intellects have been alike guided into truth when seeking it with prayer and self-consecration to God.