

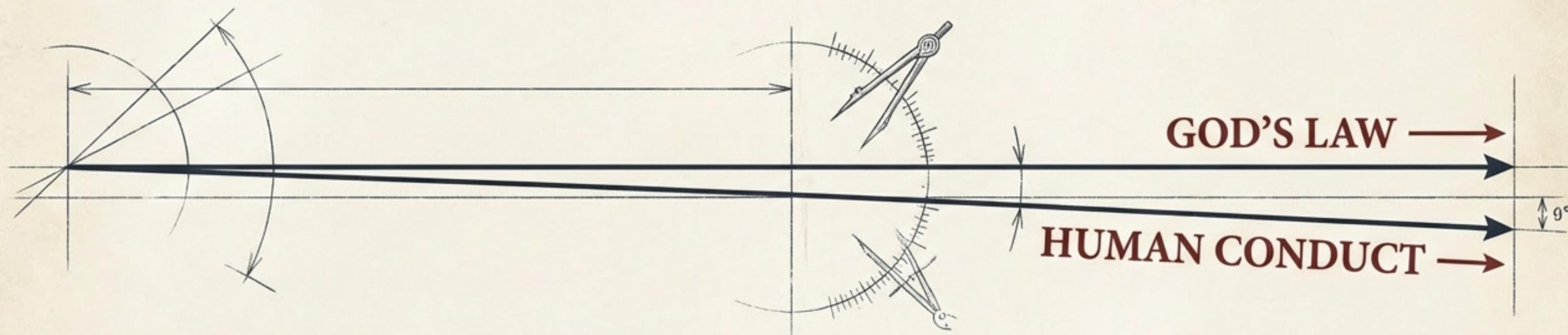
Holiness: The Sinfulness of Sin

A Theological Primer based on the writings of J.C. Ryle

ADAPTED FROM *HOLINESS*, CHAPTER 1

The Definition: A Deviation from Divine Perfection

Sin is not merely an outward crime; it is any deviation—no matter how slight—from the absolute mathematical parallelism of God's revealed will.



Commission

Doing what is forbidden.
(1 John 3:4)

Omission

Leaving undone what
is required.
(Matt 25:41-42)

Disposition

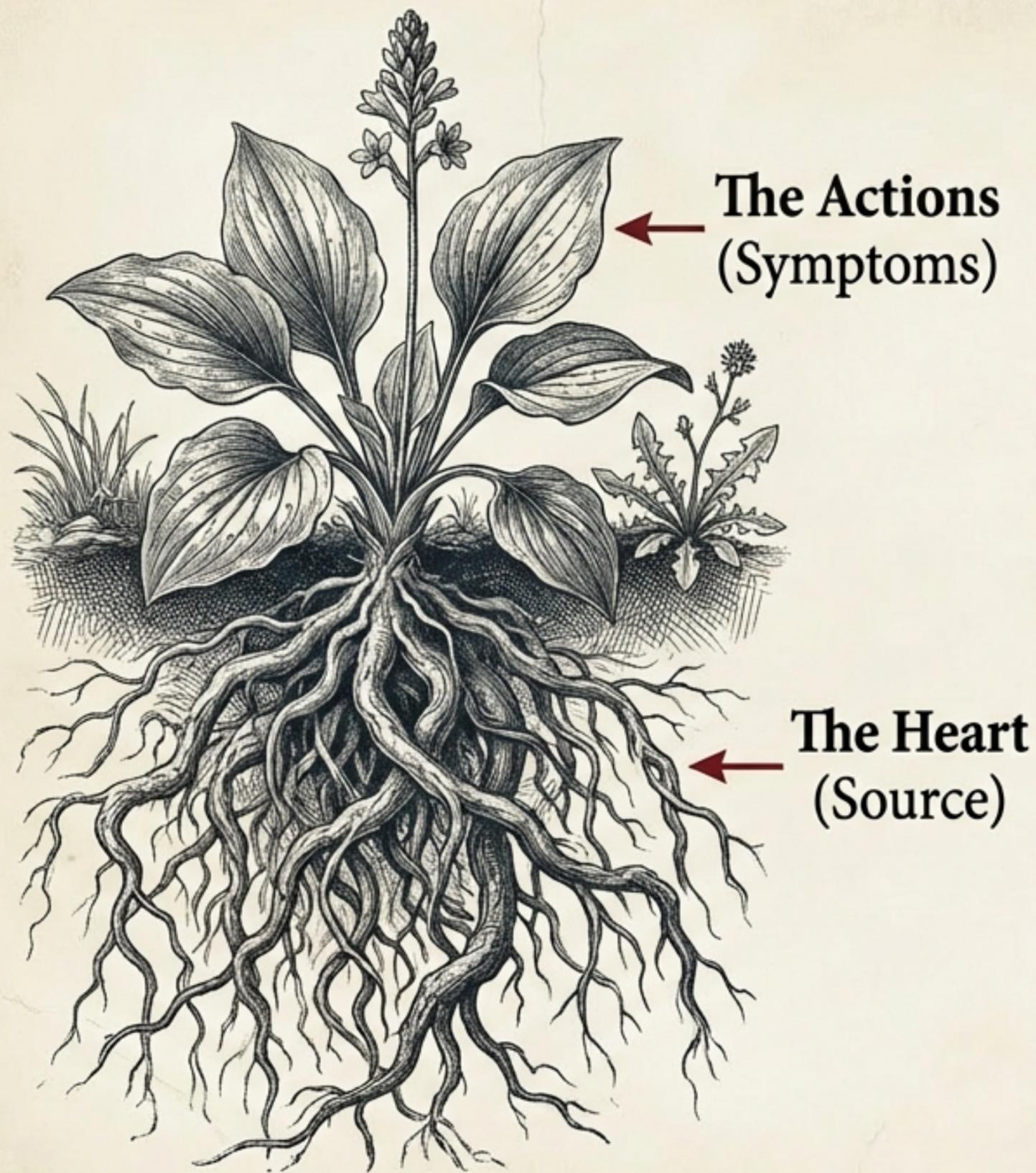
Brokenness in heart,
thought, and imagination.
(Matt 5:21-28)

The Origin: A Family Disease Inherited from Within

Sin is not the result of bad training, poor schooling, or negative peers. It is a hereditary moral infection passed down from Adam.

The fairest babe that has entered life this year is not a little 'angel' or 'innocent,' but a little 'sinner.' It carries in its heart the seeds of every kind of wickedness.

- **Mark 7:21** – Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts.
- **Eph 2:3** – By nature children of wrath.



The Extent: The Ruins of a Shattered Temple

The infection is total. Every faculty—understanding, affection, reasoning, and will—is debilitated.



Man: A Majestic Temple in Utter Ruins.

From the height of European civilization to the remotest Pacific island, the report is the same:
the heart is deceitful above all things.

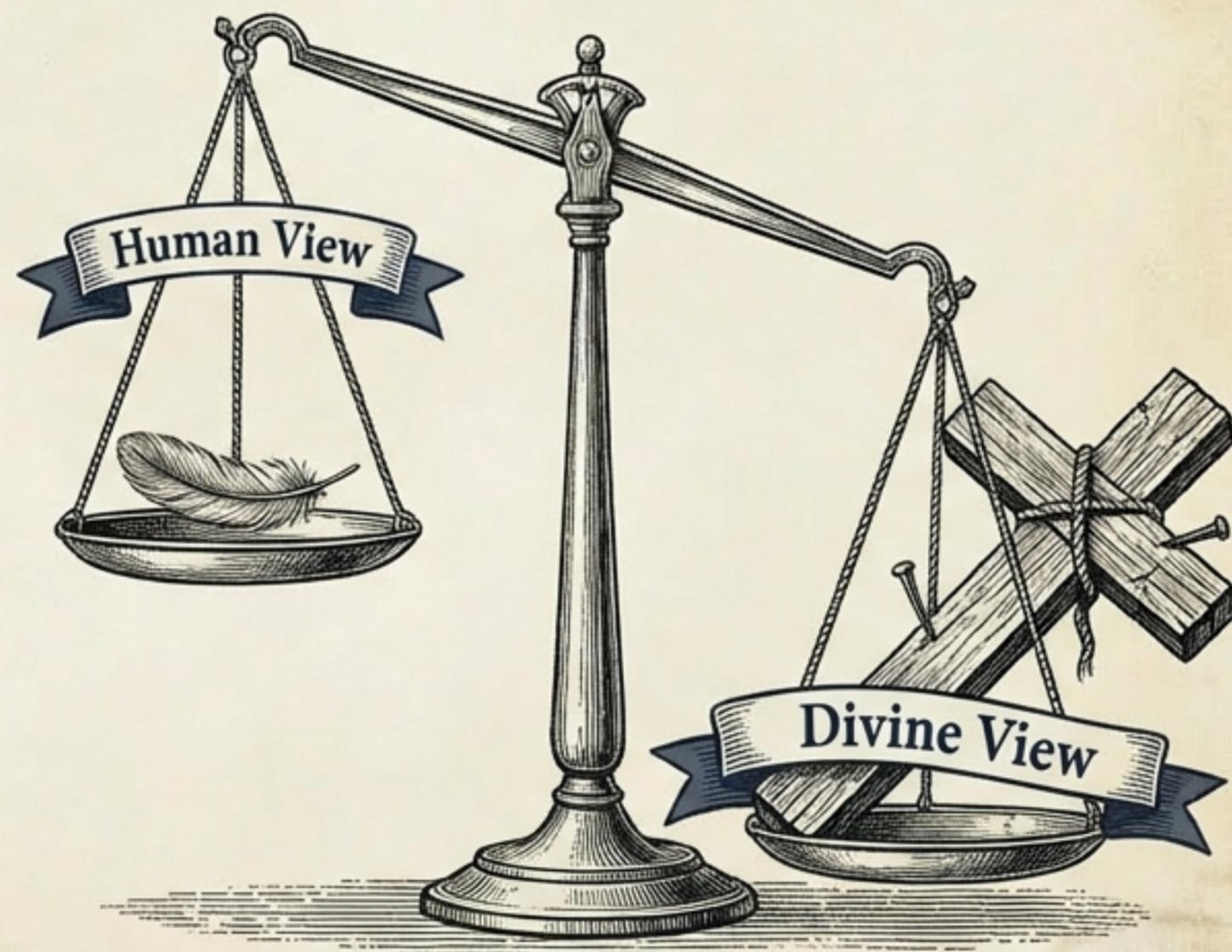
Genesis 6:5 | Jeremiah 17:9 | Isaiah 1:6

The Guilt: Measured Only by the Cross

We are blind and deaf to the true hideousness of sin. To understand its infinite offensiveness to God, we must look at the price required to cure it.

“No proof of the sinfulness of sin is as overwhelming as the passion of Christ. The weight of our guilt was heavy enough to make the Son of God cry, ‘My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?’”

Matthew 27:46



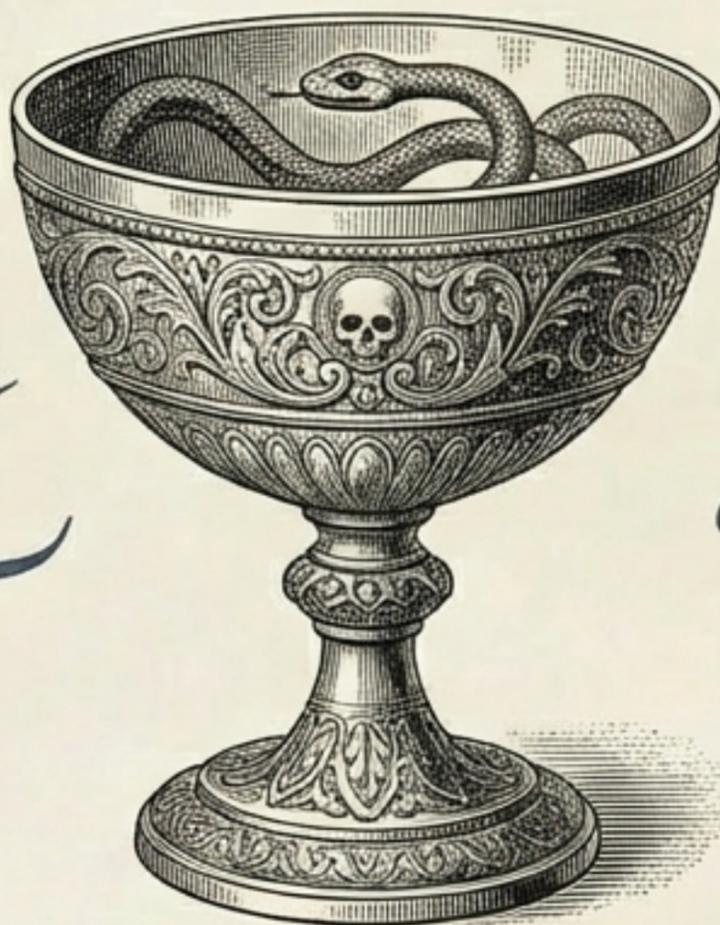
The Deceitfulness: Poison in a Golden Cup

Sin rarely presents itself as a deadly enemy. It comes like Judas with a kiss, using smooth language to minimize danger.

Fast

Gay

Wild



Thoughtless

Unsteady

We may give wickedness smooth names, but we cannot alter its nature in the sight of God.
Hebrews 3:13 - "Lest any be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin"

The Pivot: Humiliation and Hope

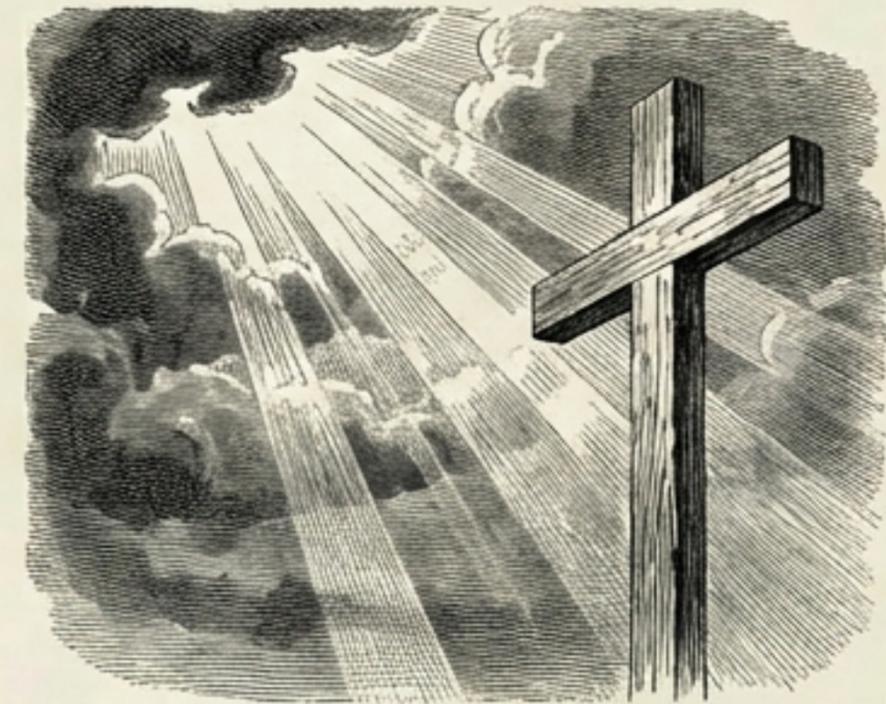
A clear view of sin produces two necessary spiritual realities.

Humiliation



Deep Humiliation. We stop claiming goodness and cry, “God be merciful to me a sinner!” (Luke 18:13)

Hope



Profound Thanksgiving. The darker the view of sin, the more glorious the view of the Gospel.

“The best things which we do have somewhat in them to be pardoned.” — Hooker

Antidote I: To Misty Theology

Clear teaching on sin cures “misty” Christianity.



The Problem:

A “mingle-mangle” Christianity that has “something about Christ” but no solid foundation. It fails to comfort in death.

The Cure:

The Law as Schoolmaster. Men will never come to Jesus and stay with Him unless they feel the danger of the disease. They must value the Physician.

1 Timothy 1:8; Romans 3:20

Antidote II: To Broad Theology

The reality of sin challenges broad, dogma-free views.



The Problem:

The modern rejection of dogma, hell, and Atonement.

The Cure:

The Gnawing Conscience.

There is a “gnawing something” within the conscience that science and philosophy cannot satisfy. Only the blood of Christ quiets the internal witness of guilt.

Antidote III: To Ceremonialism

Aesthetic religion cannot satisfy a conscience truly awakened to its own corruption.



The Problem:

A religion of flowers, music, incense, and vestments.

The Cure:

Spiritual Hunger. Toys and rattles quiet a child only until they are hungry. When the soul truly awakes and feels the starving pangs of sin, aesthetic religion becomes 'solemn trifling.' It demands the Bread of Life.

John 6:35

Antidote IV: To Perfectionism

Believing one is sinless is a delusion.



The Problem:

The delusion that a believer can live years without an evil thought.

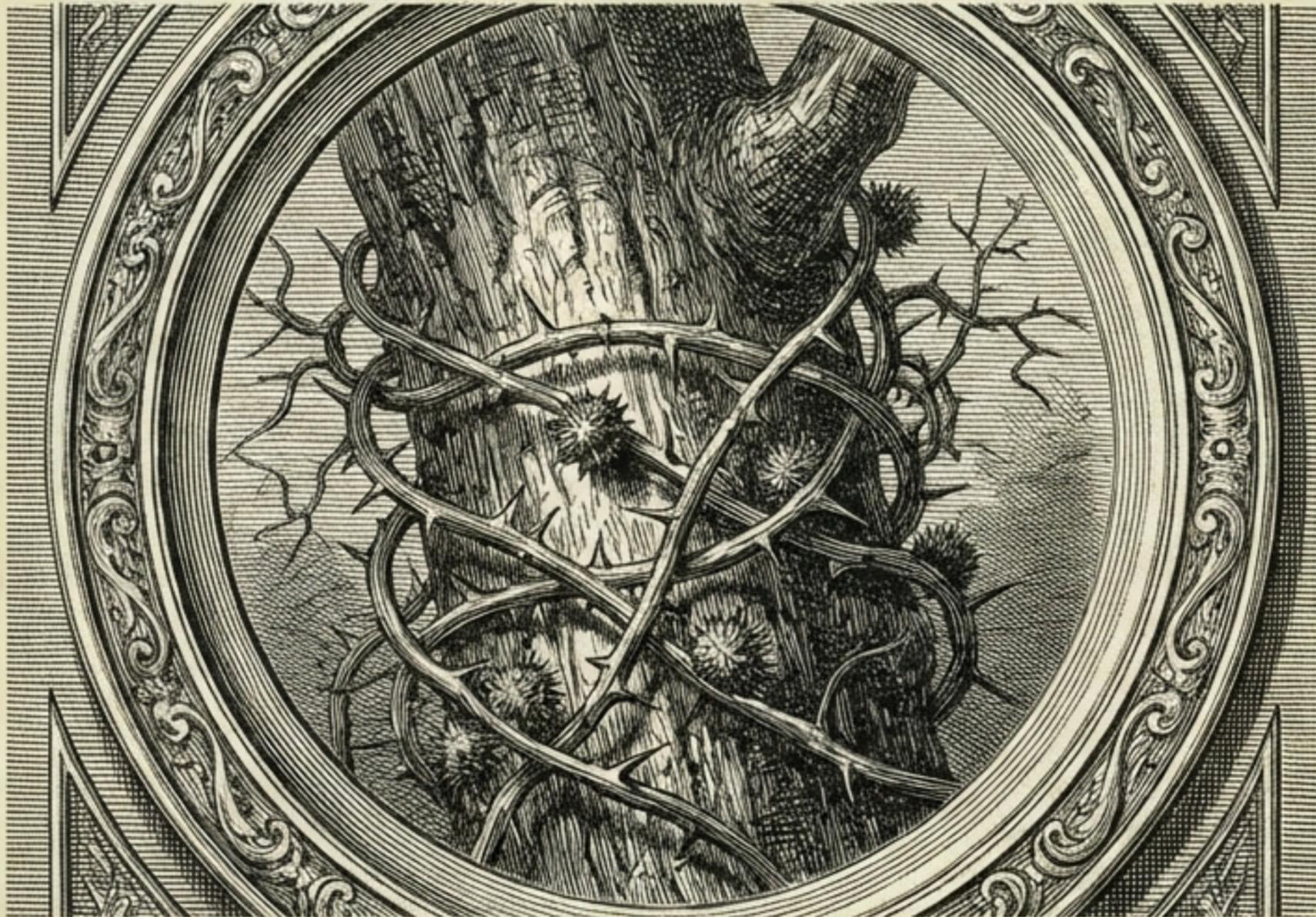
The Cure:

Reality. “The infection of nature doth remain, yea, even in them that are regenerate.” The most eminent saints have always been the most humble, because they saw their own hearts most clearly.

1 John 1:8 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves”

Antidote V: To Low Holiness

To raise the standard of daily living, we must realize how close sin sticks to us.



The Problem:

A shallow stream of “fashionable” Christianity where zeal and self-denial are forgotten.

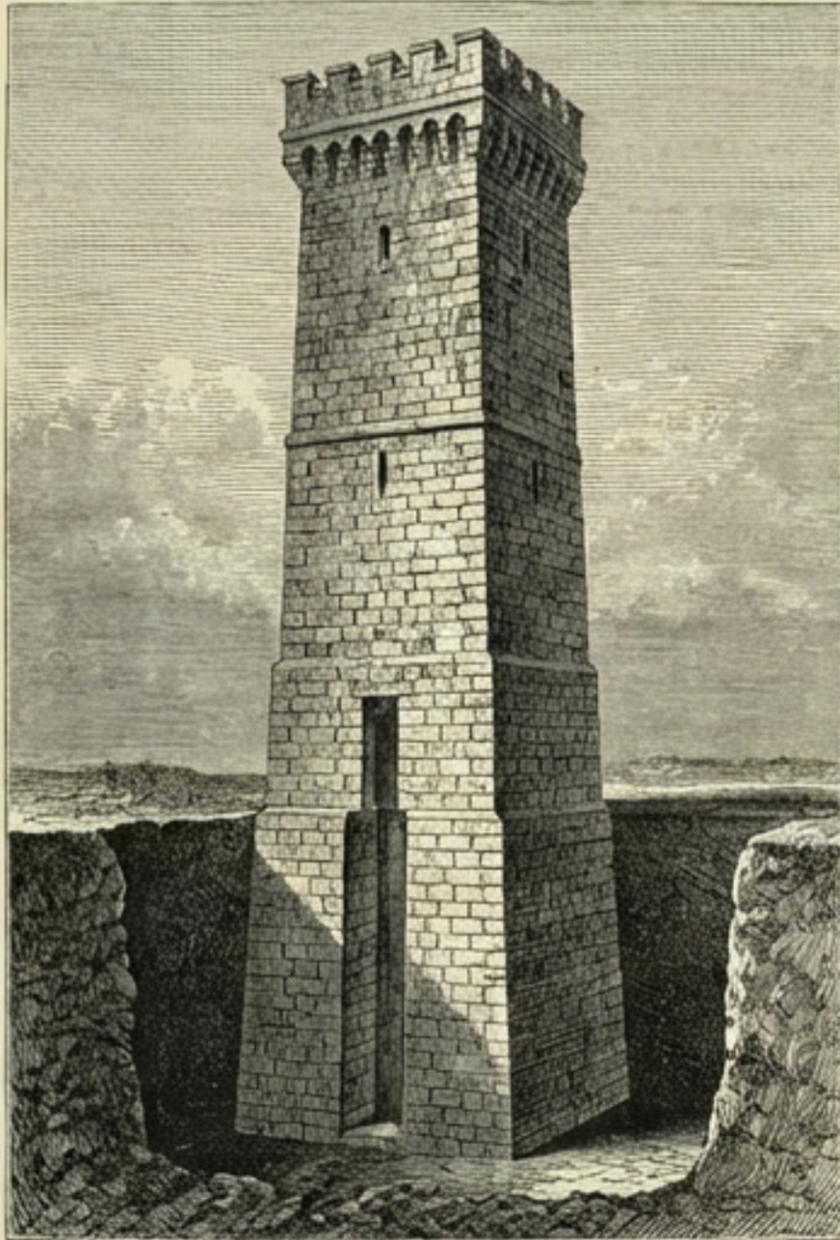
The Cure:

Proximity. We need to see that sin sticks closer to us than we thought. When we realize the danger is near, we cling closer to Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Conclusion: The Ascent

We must begin low, if we would build high.



- To understand Sanctification, we must understand Corruption.
- To value the Physician, we must feel the Disease.
- To love much, we must see how much we have been forgiven.

Blessed be God for Jesus Christ—the Almighty medicine for the hideous disease of sin.