

Quotes on Unconverted Man

by

Richard Baxter

O sinners, that you knew but what you are doing! and whom you are all this while offending! The sun itself is darkness before that Majesty, which you daily abuse and carelessly provoke. The sinning angels were not able to stand before him, but were cast down to be tormented with devils. And dare such silly worms as you so carelessly offend, and set yourselves against your Maker! O that you did but a little know what case that wretched soul is in, that hath engaged the living God against him! Death will bring such an argument as thou canst not answer; an argument that shall effectually confute thy cavils against the words and ways of God, and all thy self-conceited dotages. And then how soon will thy mind be changed?

Selfish ungodly men do all of them rob God, and give his honour and prerogatives to themselves, and put him off with empty Titles: They call him their God, but will not have him for their End, their Portion and Felicity, nor give him the strongest Love of their hearts: They will not take him as their Absolute Owner; and devote themselves and all they have to him, and stand with a willing mind to his Dispose. They will not take him for their Sovereign, and be ruled by him, nor deny themselves for him, nor seek his honour and interest above their own.... And can you expect that God should save those that deny him and would dethrone him? That is, his very enemies.

While wicked men think they are not wicked, but are already converted, we lose all our labour in persuading them to turn.

God made you for no less then his everlasting praises, before his face, among his Angels; and you have so far debased your own nature, as to root like swine in earth and dung, and to live like bruits, that have not an immortal state to mind. How will you answer this dishonour done to the workmanship of God? That you should blot out his image, and employ your souls against his Laws, and live as moles and worms in the earth. He put you on

earth but as travellers towards Heaven: and you have taken up your home in the way, and forgotten your End and Resting place.

They (*the unsanctified inhabitants of the world*) do but labour, and care, and gather as in a dream: They fight, and conquer, and possess, but as in a dream. They dream that they are rich, and honourable, and happy, and how proudly do they carry it out in this dream? One dreameth that he is a great man, and he is lifted up: another dreameth that he is poor and undone, and he is troubled: But when God awaketh the dreaming world (*at death and judgment*), he will shew them the vanity and despicableness of this *image* or *shew* that here they walked in: They shall see that as in a game at Chess, though one was imaginarily a King, and another a Queen; yet it was but imaginary: and when the tedious game is ended, they have laboured hard to do nothing, and are all alike; so will it be with them.

To be against the ministry is near to being absolutely against the church; and to be against the church, is near to being absolutely against Christ.

You may as well think that that man should be saved that is a flat Atheist, and denyeth God, and renounced him, as that a worldling should be saved: And he that is not dead to the world is a worldling.

Can you truly say, that God hath more of your Heart then all the world, and Heaven is dearer to your thoughts then earth? ... that the main care, design and bent of your life is for God and the Glory to come; and that this is your daily Work and Business? If so, you are Christians indeed... But if all this be clean contrary with you; and if the flesh and the world have the prevalent Interest, and these cut out your work, and form your thoughts, and choose your employments; if these choose the calling that you live upon, and the manner of managing it, and your very Religion, or set limits to it; if it be these that rule your tongue and hands, and they can make a cause seem good or bad to you, and that seemeth best which most conduceth to your fleshly, worldly interests, and *that* seemeth worst which destroyeth it or is against it; if God be loved and worshipped but as a Necessary *Means* to your carnal Happiness; or if he have but the second place in your hearts, and the leavings of the flesh and world, (be they never so much) and if your Religion and Endeavours for

salvation, for pleasing God, and for the invisible Glory, be but on the by; and the flesh and the world hath the main scope, and bent, and drift of your life; flatter not your selves then, most certainly you are but carnal wretches and drudges of the world, and slaves to him that is stilled by Christ, the Prince of this world.

But if nothing can be heard, what then shall we do for them? If the dreadful God of heaven be slighted, who then shall be regarded? If the inestimable love and blood of a Redeemer be made light of, what then shall be valued? If heaven have no desirable glory with them, and everlasting joys be nothing worth, if they can jest at hell, and dance about the bottomless pit, and play with the consuming fire, and that when God and man do warn them of it; what shall we do for such souls as these?

Selfish Carnal men deal worse with God, than they do with the Devil and sin itself. God offereth them Christ and pardon, and eternal life if they will but deny themselves in a thing of nought, and they will not be ruled or persuaded by him: The Devil offereth them but the delights of the flesh, and the pleasures of sin for a season, and they will deny ten thousand sold more for this. They will deny God their Maker and Redeemer, their Lord and Judge, their Preserver and their hope: though he have the only Title to them, and their lives and souls be in his hand: They will for the sake of a filthy lust, or of a short and miserable life, deny him that never did them wrong, nay that hath always shewed them kindness, even all the kindness that ever they received; and that when they know that their everlasting state must stand or fall according to his judgement. They will deny the Lord Jesus the Redeemer of their souls: They will deny and resist the holy spirit of God: They will deny his Laws, his Gospel-promises, and all his Mercies: They will deny his Ministers and all their persuasions and daily labours: They will deny their dearest Christian friends, and deny their own Consciences and Convictions; and deny themselves the Peace and Joy which they might find in a holy walking with God: Yea they will deny themselves everlasting life, and the favour of God, and cast themselves into endless misery; and all this for a thing that is ten thousand times worse than nothing, or for a very sensual brutish Pleasure.

The soul of a wicked man did never truly discern and relish the mystery of redemption, nor thankfully entertain an offered Saviour; nor is he taken up with the love of the Redeemer,

nor willing to be ruled by him as the physician of his soul, that he may be saved from the guilt and power of his sins...Though he may be willing to be carnally religious, yet he never resigneth up his soul to Christ, and to the motion and conduct of his word and spirit.

It is the unchangeable law of God that wicked men must turn or die. It is the promise of God that the wicked shall live, if they will but turn.

Will you call your Maker to the bar, and examine his word upon the accusation or falsehood? Will you set upon him, and judge him by the law of your conceits? Are you wiser, and better, and more righteous than he? Must the God of heaven come to you to learn wisdom? Must infinite wisdom learn of folly? and infinite Holiness be corrected by a selfish sinner that cannot keep himself an hour clean? Must the Almighty stand at the bar of a worm? O! horrid arrogance of senseless dust! Shall every mole, or clod, or dunghill, accuse the sun of darkness, and undertake to illuminate the world? Where were you when the Almighty made these laws, that he did not call you to his counsel?