



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 12

June 14, 2026

No. 24

## God's Refinery

Chris Reeves

*But he knows the way that I take; when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10)*

In Bible times, and even today, metallic ore was heated in a pot (or crucible) to a melting point and the metal was extracted (Job 28:1-2; Psalm 12:6; Isaiah 48:10; Jeremiah 6:29; 9:7)

The metal was then heated to a liquid state and the impurities (dross) were skimmed off to bring it to a fine or pure state. This is what is mentioned in Proverbs 25:4-5:

*Take away the dross from the silver, and there cometh forth a vessel for the refiner. Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.*

Refined metals were more precious and expensive because it took work to refine them (I Chronicles 28:18; 29:4; Revelation 1:15; 3:18). In like manner, the refined Christian is precious in the sight of God and man.

The process of refining illustrates God's dealings with his people. God wants his people to be "refined" in the furnace of life and come out the other end pure and faithful to him (Psalm 17:3; 26:2; 66:10; Isaiah 1:22-26; 48:10; Jeremiah 6:27-30; 30; Malachi 3:3). Consider these words found in Zechariah 13:8-9:

*And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith Jehovah, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part into the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried. They shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, Jehovah is my God.*

### The Refiner's Pot

God uses various situations in life to refine us. These situations are like a refiner's pot into which we have been placed. Sometimes God gives us...

- Challenging commands in his word like when he told Abraham to offer up his son Isaac (Genesis 22). Will you obey the challenging commands of God in the New Testament?
- Physical afflictions like he did with Job (Job 23:10). Will you pass through the afflictions of life and remain faithful to God?
- Judgments and punishments for sin like he did with Israel (Isaiah 48:10; Ezekiel 22:17-22). Will you learn from these, humble yourself, and become a better person?
- Controversies and divisions among Christians like he did at Corinth (1 Corinth 11:19). Will you be on the right side of controversy and division (the side of truth) when these come and show that you are approved and faithful?
- Persecutions against the faithful like he did with Israel and New Testament Christians (Daniel 11:35; 12:10). Will you remain faithful as you pass through the fiery trials of persecution? Consider what Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:6-7:
- Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been put to grief in manifold trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

## **The Refiner's Purpose**

Why does God test us the way he does? Why does he send "negative" things our way? Does he have a good purpose for all of this?

Yes, he does! God "refines" us for these good reasons:

- To test our faith (Proverbs 17:3; 27:21; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15) ☞ To help us comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:3-7) ☞ To make heaven attractive (2 Corinthians 4:16ff)
- To make us learn to trust Him (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- To make us appreciate our blessings in the here and now (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- To remove any sin in our life (James 1:12)

## **The Refiner's Product**

What is the final result of all of this refining? God wants to make us a true follower of Christ who bears the true image of Christ (Romans 8:29). And God wants to make us a fine product that he will put on display one day in his own house – heaven (Revelation 21:27; 22:14-15). Friend, will you stand the heat? Will you pass the test? THE WARFIELD BULLETIN December 7, 2025

## **God's Name -- Handle With Care**

by Bill Hall

How often do you use terms like "My God," "O God," "Dear Lord," or "Lordy" as mere slang expressions? Do you have no reverence for God and His name? Do you not fear Him? Can you trample God's name under foot and still go guiltless before Him?

Whose name are you taking in vain? It is the Creator of the universe; it is the giver of all good things; it is the One who "gave His only begotten Son;" it is the One to whom you want to turn when accident or serious illness or grief strikes within your family; it is the One before whom you must stand in judgment when all earthly life is ended. Can you stand guiltless before Him in judgment when all of your life you have profaned His name? Can you show contempt for His name throughout life and still expect Him to hear in your moments of crisis?

Even if you do not reverence God, do you not respect the feelings of those who do? There are people in your community who have a strong faith in God; who praise Him for His mercy and kindness; who even see His hand working through their sorrows and tragedies to bring them closer to Him; who truly love God. We are not speaking of hypocrites whose religion is only an outward show. We are speaking of genuine people who truly reverence God. These people do business with you; they shop where you shop; they attend community meetings which you attend. No, they don't correct you every time you use God's name irreverently, for they are concerned for your feelings; but they are deeply hurt every time they hear the name of their God used so carelessly. Do you not care? Should you not be equally concerned for their feelings?

Now, the fact that you are still reading this article indicates that you do care; otherwise, you would have already thrown this paper away. Your actions are due to thoughtlessness, not maliciousness. Or perhaps no-one has ever pointed out to you the seriousness of taking God's name in vain. It might not be easy to change. Habit can maintain a terrible grip on our lives. But with effort you can succeed. Of course, I would encourage you to go beyond this. I would encourage you to develop love, reverence, and respect for God that would not only regard His name as sacred, but would bring you humbly to His word and will, and to salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. If you do thus submit yourself to God, you will find joy in using His name in prayer and in praise. You will sing of His name and bring honor to His name through your godly life. Isn't this far better than blaspheming His name?

What does the Bible say of God's name? "Holy and reverend is His name" (Psalm 111:9). "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth" (Psalm 8:1)!

It's God's name. Handle it with care.