

# Revelation 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

## Analysis

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**I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes w...**

This verse from Revelation's vision of letters to sardis, philadelphia, laodicea - dead religion, faithful witness, lukewarmness employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

## Historical Context

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John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 3:18 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?
2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?

3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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συμβουλεύω σοι ἀγοράσαι παρ' ἐμοῦ χρυσίον

I counsel thee to buy of me gold  
G4823 G4671 G59 G3844 G1700 G5553

πεπυρωμένον ἐκ πυρὸς ἵνα πλουτήσῃς καὶ ιμάτια  
tried in the fire that thou mayest be rich and raiment  
G4448 G1537 G4442 G2443 G4147 G2532 G2440

λευκὰ ἵνα περιβάλῃ καὶ μὴ φανερωθῇ ἡ  
white that thou mayest be clothed and not appear  
G3022 G2443 G4016 G2532 G3361 G5319 G3588

αἰσχύνη τῆς γυμνότητός σου καὶ κολλούριον ἐγχρῖσον  
that the shame G3588 nakedness of thy and with eyesalve anoint  
G152 G1132 G4675 G2532 G2854 G1472

τοὺς ὄφθαλμούς σου ἵνα βλέπῃς  
G3588 eyes of thy that thou mayest see  
G3788 G4675 G2443 G991

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 16:15** (Parallel theme): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

**1 Peter 1:7** (Parallel theme): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**Isaiah 55:1** (Parallel theme): Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

**Revelation 19:8** (Parallel theme): And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

**Revelation 7:13** (Parallel theme): And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

**Matthew 13:44** (Parallel theme): Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

**Malachi 3:3** (Parallel theme): And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

**Daniel 12:2** (Parallel theme): And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

**Psalms 32:8** (Parallel theme): I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

**James 2:5** (Parallel theme): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?