**The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis**

**BOOK ONE:** THOUGHTS HELPFUL IN THE LIFE OF THE SOUL

**Chapter 24: Judgment and the Punishment of Sin**

**Definition and Scriptures:**

**Snare:** To catch with a snare; to ensnare; to entangle; to bring into unexpected evil, perplexity or danger.  (KJVDictionary.com)

**1 Timothy 6:9:** But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.  
  
**Exodus 23:33:** They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”  
  
**Deuteronomy 7:16:** You shall consume all the peoples whom the Lord your God will deliver to you; your eye shall not pity them, nor shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.  
  
**Judges 2:3:** Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.’”

**Quote:**

"He who loves God with all his heart does not fear death or punishment or judgment or hell, because perfect love assures access to God. It is no wonder that he who still delights in sin fears death and judgment. It is good, however, that even if love does not as yet restrain you from evil, at least the fear of hell does. The man who casts aside the fear of God cannot continue long in goodness but will quickly fall into the snares of the devil."  
   
**Discussion:**

A snare could be compared to a trap or a cage in that it takes away one’s freedom. What are the freedoms that God desires for us and how does the pursuit of wealth take away the freedom that God has for us?

Physical or emotional pain can either drive us to amend our ways or envy those who do not have physical or emotional pain. How can pain drive some people to God while others fall away?