

in it, which is the opposite of what is expected from them; thus their sin and the sins of those who follow their example after them will be upon them.

Then Allah mentions that which is preventing them from believing, which is their preferring immediate worldly gains over eternal bliss. Allah says: ﴿do not...sell My revelations for a small price﴾. That price is what they gain of (worldly) status and accumulation which they think will cease if they believe in Allah and His Messenger (ﷺ), so they trade the verses of Allah for those things, preferring them and giving precedence to them.

﴿and fear Me, and Me alone﴾ that is, none other than Me. If you fear Allah alone, your fear of Him dictates that you should give precedence to belief in His revelations over that small gain, just as choosing the small gain (instead of faith) is indicative of the absence of fear of Allah in your hearts.

Then Allah says: ﴿And do not confuse﴾ that is, mix, ﴿truth with falsehood, nor conceal the truth knowingly﴾. Here Allah is forbidding two things to them: mixing truth with falsehood, and concealing the truth. That is because what is expected of the people of scriptures and knowledge is that they should distinguish between truth and falsehood and propagate the truth, so that people might be guided thereby, those who have gone astray might be brought back, and proof might be established against those who stubbornly reject faith, because Allah has made His revelations clear and has clarified His evidence, so as to distinguish truth from falsehood and to distinguish the path of those who are guided from the path of the evildoers. Any of the people of knowledge who acts upon that is one of the successors of the Messengers and is one of those who lead the people to guidance.

The one who confuses truth with falsehood, not distinguishing between them, and knowingly conceals the truth that he knows and is enjoined to disclose openly, is one of the callers to hell, because with