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*“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)*

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## SECRETS

Perhaps you have some secrets in your life that you have never told anyone: secret things in your past, secret things that you desire, secret plans that you have made, or secret fears that you have. What you should not have are secret sins that you hold on to.

*Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid. (1 Tim. 5:24-25)*

Some sins are obvious and open for everyone to see. But some

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THE HARVESTER  
141 County Road 474  
Woodland, AL 36280  
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are hidden and God will deal with them later.

God is all seeing; He knows everything that you do.

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (Heb. 4:12-13)*

There is nothing hidden from God; everything is naked and open before him. He can even discern the thoughts and intents of your heart.

*Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. (Dan. 2:20-22)*

Deeds even done in darkness are not hidden from Him.

God knows everything about you; there are no secrets from God. “*Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance*” (Psa. 90:8). Since God already knows your sins, you should then be open and honest with God. Confess your weaknesses, your failings and your sins to God that he may forgive you.

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn. 1:8-9)*

Seek the cleansing from God that He offers when you humble yourself before Him. God resists the proud but gives grace to

the humble (Jas. 4:6).

*Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. (Psa. 19:12-13)*

Jesus condemned the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders of His day.

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. (Mat. 23:27-28)*

Don't be like that. Don't be a hypocrite who appears righteous on the outside but you hide your lawlessness and sin. My encouragement is to live an honest life.

*But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Cor. 4:2)*

We have addressed secret sins. What about secret righteous deeds that you do?

*But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father*

*which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (Mat. 6:3-6)*

Actions such as your charitable deeds, your prayer, your fasting and your Bible study should not be done by you to make a show so that you will receive the praise of others. Instead, they should be secret between you and God. Not everything good that you do will be a secret; how you live your life and the results of your righteous deeds will be obvious to others. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Mat. 5:16). It is good for others to see your good works, but don’t do the good works so that they will be seen by others and so that they will praise you.

*Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. (1 Cor. 4:5)*

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecc. 12:13-14)*

Whether your secrets are good or evil, God will bring every work of yours into judgement. So cleanse yourself of secret sins. If you have secrets, let them be the secret good things that you do from your heart that please God.

ED ANDERSON  
(Sierra Vista, AZ)

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God’s harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

The Harvester

141 County Road 474 \* Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221\* Email: raymcmamus@hotmail.com

Web Page: [www.churches-of-christ.org](http://www.churches-of-christ.org)

## PHILIPPIANS 4

### (Part I)

*Philippians 4:1 - Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.*

The fourth chapter of Philippians starts with Paul stating how special the Philippian people are to him "...dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown..." and by admonishing them to stay strong in their beliefs and with their work for the Lord. Paul then beseeches (asks, requests, implores) Euodias and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord and then tells everyone reading that they should help the women and others who labored with him to spread the gospel.

*Philippians 4:2-3 - I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.*

Paul then begins to share more wisdom.

*Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*

A concept so important that he repeated it, "Rejoice in the Lord..." We have hope and we should be happy, rejoice, because of that hope. Paul talked about rejoicing in a few different letters but Peter also talked about rejoicing.

*1 Peter 4:13 - But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

Again, we rejoice because we have hope. We rejoice because we know that Christ died for US so that we can have that hope.

*Philippians 4:5 - Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

Paul is reminding the Philippians that people should know why they act as they do. Why they are ok doing everything in moderation. That it is for the Lord and because they want to please Him in all that they do.

*Philippians 4:6-7 - Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

These two verses give us a lot to think about. The first part of verse 6 is basically telling us to not be anxious, to be patient. It tells us to do everything with prayer and to be thankful in our prayers. To always ask God, if we have needs, to help with those needs. It says if we do that, “*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” How many times have you worried about something? How many times have you talked to God when you were worried about something? I would venture to guess that a high percentage of times when you were worried if you talked to God you felt better afterwards. You probably felt the peace of God and knew that everything would be ok. As it says in Psalms 23:

*Psalms 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*Psalms 23:4 - ...I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Psalms 23:6 - Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

We have hope. We have peace.

*John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

*Romans 5:1 - Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Colossians 3:15 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

In the next part of the letter to the Philippians Paul reminds the people of how they should act and the qualities that should be seen in them. He gives a list: true, honest, pure, lovely, of good report. He says to think about those things and to be true followers of God as he is striving to be. He tells them if they can do that, the God of peace will be with them. Again, with God we have peace.

*Philippians 4:8-9 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

This is a reminder of something that Paul said earlier in the letter:

*Philippians 3:17 - Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.*

Are you following people that show a good example? Are you striving to be a good example for others? Are you a light in all that you do? Can you say that you are honest, and true, and pure, and just, and lovely, and of good report? Paul says it best, “*think on these things.*”

A. D.

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who lied to God when he was asked where his brother was?
2. Who was Jacob’s mother?

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
July 14 - 19	Temple Hill Smithdale, MS	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
July 20 - 21	Freefield Stateline, MS	J. D. McDonald & Timothy Lewis
July 21 - 26	Oak Grove Woodland, AL	Dana Chandler (Wedowee, AL)
July 26 - 28	Pleasant Ridge Woodbury, TN	Timothy Lewis (Eubank, KY)
July 28 - August 2	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Danny Abercrombie & Joe Hill

(cont. from page 7)

3. A “soft answer turneth away...” what?
4. At what age did Jesus start his ministry?
5. What does a “good tree” bring forth?

### ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

...and remember last month’s questions?

1. According to Proverbs, what is the beginning of knowledge?  
THE FEAR OF THE LORD (Pro. 1:7)
2. The apostle Paul told the Philippians to “do all things without” what? MURMURING AND DISPUTING (Php. 2:14)
3. In Ephesians, we are told to have no fellowship with what?  
THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS (Eph. 5:11)
4. What does Paul say happens to a man “if he think himself to be something, when he is nothing”? HE DECEIVETH HIMSELF (Gal. 6:3)
5. Who was “sick nigh unto death” in Paul’s writing to the Philippians? EPAPHRODITUS (Php. 2:25-27)