

THE



*"Therefore said he unto them, 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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## SECRET SINS

A child has just broken an expensive vase while playing ball in the house. Now he senses trouble. He can hear the footsteps of his father entering the room. What should he do? Pick up the pieces? No, his initial reaction is to hide. So he darts behind a chair, but he is soon caught.

It seems funny to us to see the child think he can escape punishment by hiding. But usually we adults act no differently. Consider the case of Adam and Eve. *"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden."*(Gen. 3:8)

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Maybe it is funny but it is also very foolish if we think we can conceal our sins from the all-seeing eye of God. *"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."*(Prov. 15:3)

Apparently, people today feel that they can successfully sin in secret. Since no man sees their crime, the sinners think they have escaped judgment. They believe they can "get away with it" as long as it is not done in the open or in a well-lit environment. But their sins are not that well covered.

My son likes to play a game where he thinks he hides from us. He simply closes his eyes real tight. He can't see us, therefore he thinks we can't see him, either. But we can! It is the same way with God. Most of us pretend to be blind to our own sins. Yet, no matter how hard we close our eyes, God can still see us! His eyes are indeed open when we sin. *"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."*(Luke 12:2) Nothing can escape the attention of God. Inevitably, all sin will be exposed. *"But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out."*(Num. 32:23)

Cain murdered his brother Abel in secret, but then he was exposed (Gen. 4:8-10). It was several years after the "crime" before Joseph's brothers were also exposed (Gen. 42:21). Achan's theft seemed well hidden, but he got caught (Josh. 7:21). Ahab's sin found him out through the prophet Elijah (1 Ki. 21:20). The betrayal by Judas had the approval of the authorities, yet he was exposed to his own sin afterward (Matt. 27:3). In each example given, the sin was uncovered. Nothing can escape the observation of our Lord. *"For mine eyes are*

upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes." (Jer. 16:17)

Brethren, it is futile to attempt to hide our sins from the Almighty. In fact, the scriptures pronounce a "woe" to those who do try. "Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" (Isa. 29:15) A sin committed in total darkness or before total strangers is still a transgression before God.

I sincerely believe every single one of us have a secret sin or two in our closets. There are things in our lives which have been done in "darkness" which nobody else knows about. Sometimes these are the hardest sins to give up because we think we will not have to give an account for those items. But friends, all our secrets will be made known at the Judgment Day. "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Eccl. 12:14)

Consequently, it is of no use to try to conceal our iniquities. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." (Prov. 28:13) Our only solution is to confess our secret sins. The apostle John suggested: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) Only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away our sins and that is exactly where we will find salvation today. "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES!

1. Who made Adam's first coat?
2. In Jeremiah 1, where did God touch Jeremiah?
3. With what did Paul say women should dress themselves in 1 Timothy?
4. With what did Israel burden God?
5. Who is the only person in the Bible who asked, "What is truth?"

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who bound up Samsom with two new ropes to hand him over to the Philistines? 3000 MEN FROM JUDAH (Judges 15:11-13)
2. To what two neighboring countries did Israel call for help instead of the Lord? EGYPT AND ASSYRIA (Hosea 7:11)
3. When Jesus was before the Sanhedrin, many testified falsely against Him. Why didn't this convict Him? THEIR TESTIMONY CONFLICTED (Mark 14:56,59)
4. In which account of the Gospel are there no parables? JOHN
5. When Isaac first saw Rebekah, what was he doing? MEDITATING (Gen. 24:63)

[Editor's Note: Last month I received a letter from a sister in Christ. She wrote, "Please don't pass up the opportunity of presenting the Plan of Salvation in The Harvester. I leave my copy in Drs. office, telephone booths and anywhere else I feel someone might look at it. You never know when someone will see it that has never heard the Plan of Salvation. I agree with you (June issue) that we need more sermons on 'What Must I Do to be Saved' if sinners are to be saved!" This sister certainly has a good point. Therefore, this month I am including the following information.]

## BIBLE PRINCIPLES OF SALVATION

- I. All People Have Sinned (1 Ki 8:46; Psa 53:3; Psa 130:3; Rom 3:10,23; Rom 5:12; 1 Jn 1:8; 1 Jn 5:19)
- II. A Sinner Will Die the Eternal Death (Ezek 3:18-19; Ezek 18:4,20; Ezek 33:8-9; Rom 6:23; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Jas 1:15; Jas 5:20; Rev 21:8)

### UNLESS HE:

1. Hears the Word of God (Prov 8:34; Matt 13:23; Lk 8:15; Lk 10:39; Jn 10:16; Acts 8:6; Rom 10:17; Eph 1:13; 1 Thes 2:13; Jas 1:19)
2. Realizes Jesus Christ is the Only Way (Jn 6:68; Jn 10:9; Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; Acts 15:11; Rom 5:2,9; Eph 2:18; Eph 3:12; 1 Thes 5:9; Heb 5:9)
3. Believes Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 16:16; Jn 3:15-16; Jn 8:24; Jn 11:25-26; Jn 12:46; Jn 20:31; Acts 8:37; Acts 10:43; Acts 13:39; Acts 16:31; Acts 18:8; Acts 19:18; Heb 11:6; 1 Jn 3:23)

4. Is Convicted in his Heart of his Sins  
(Psa 34:18; Psa 51:3; Joel 2:13; Acts 2:37; Acts 16:29; Acts 24:25; 2 Cor 7:8-11)
5. Repents of his Sins (Isa 55:7; Ezek 18:21,31; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; Acts 26:20)
6. Confesses his Faith in the Lord Jesus  
(Prov 28:13; Matt 10:32; Lk 12:8; Acts 8:37; Acts 19:18; Rom 10:9-10; Phil 2:11; 1 Jn 4:15)
7. Is Baptized by Immersion for the Remission of Sins in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Matt 28:19; Mk 16:16; Jn 3:3-5; Jn 3:23; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 16:33; Acts 18:8; Acts 22:16; Rom 6:3-6; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:26-27; Col 2:12; 1 Pet 3:21)
8. Lives a Faithful Life, Guided Only by the Authority of the N.T. (Matt 25:21; Acts 17:11; Rom 1:16; Eph 6:16-17; Tit 2:11-12; Heb 4:12; Jas 1:21; 1 Pet 1:22-23; 1 Jn 5:4; Rev 2:10)
9. Worships in Spirit & Truth, not Forsaking the Assembling, and Observing the Lord's Supper every first day of the week (Matt 4:10; Matt 6:33; Jn 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:20-30; Heb 10:25; Rev 14:7)
10. Prays for Forgiveness, if he should Fall into Sin Again (Acts 8:22; 1 Cor 10:12-13; Eph 1:7; Eph 6:18; 1 Thes 5:17; Jas 5:15-16; 1 Jn 1:5-10)

III. Only Those Who Do the Will of God Shall Be Saved (Matt 7:21; Matt 12:50; Lk 6:47-48; Acts 2:13; Jas 1:22; 1 Jn 2:17; Rev 22:14)

## AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

*"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."* (1 John 3:18) With this in mind, I wonder what can be said of OUR love for the "gathering together" of the saints? Will we only say we love the church or will we actually attend all the services we can? People tend to say they "love" many things but the proof is in their actions. That is what the verse above is pointing out.

God did not use mere words to show his love toward us. He proved it with what he did. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16) Likewise, Jesus showed His love for mankind when He unselfishly went to the cross. *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour."* (Eph. 5:2)

It is quite hypocritical, then, for a member of the Lord's church to say he loves Jesus Christ when that member does not even attempt to attend the services of the church for which Christ died (Acts 20:28). By such actions, it is easy to see how truly weak many of the members are today. Most seem to prefer watching TV, going to ballgames or spending time with their worldly friends. This only reveals their real love in life. Brethren, if we refuse to assemble with our brothers and sisters in Christ, then how can we honestly say we love God (1 John 4:20)? Perhaps it is time to show our true affections, *"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is"* (Heb. 10:25).

RAY

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
July 23-28	Second Avenue Church Opelika, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
July 23-29 (Su-Sa)	Napolean Church Woodland, AL 7:00 evenings	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)
July 30-31	Bonaventure Road Savannah, GA	Chris Melton (Valley, AL)
Aug. 2-5	Poplar Grove Church Burkesville, KY	Marvin Williams (Galax, VA)
Aug. 3-6	Antioch Church Cherokee Co., AL	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)
Aug. 4-6	Cullman, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Aug. 11-13	Rainsville, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Aug. 13-19	Bonaventure Road Savannah, GA	Harry Cobb (Birmingham, AL)
Aug. 25-27 (F-Su)	Moffat Road Church Mobile, AL 7:30 evenings	Ken Cobb (Birmingham, AL)

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