

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

May 30, 2021

Secret Sin

Since Cain killed Abel, people have been trying to hide their sins from God and those around them. That's why Cain lured Abel to go out to the field with him (Gen. 4.6). No one would see what he was going to do. No one would know about it. Even when God asked Cain about his brother, he tried to deflect responsibility and truth by saying, "*Am I my brother's keeper?*" (Gen. 4.9). God gave him a chance to admit his sin. He had urged him to do what is right and to master his sin (Gen. 4.7). But Cain, like the rest of us, chose to try to keep it secret.

Of course, he couldn't. God sees and knows everything, and had to punish Cain because of his sin. Cain, like his parents when they sinned, was sent away from the Lord's presence (Gen. 4.16). Yet, from the time of Cain until this very moment, people from all generations, cultures and nations have attempted to hide their "*secret*" sins from God and each other, and have suffered the same result ... separation from God.

The Bible is filled with warnings about secret sins. "*You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence*" (Psalm 90.8). "*The sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right against the Lord*" (2 Kings 17.9). "*Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the Lord, and whose deeds are done in a dark place*" (Isa. 29.15). "*It is shame-*

ful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret (Eph. 5.12). “*Everyone who does evil hates the light ... for fear that his deeds will be exposed*” (John 3.20). Thus, the admonition, “*The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So, let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light*” (Rom. 13.12).

With our laptops, tablets and smart phones, secret sin is easier than ever to conceal. But the availability of pornography, vulgarity and impurity on these devices also makes it easier for others to view that as a greater evil, and to ignore the secret sins they practice: envy, gossip, hatred, anger, slander, greed, etc. As with Cain, the opportunity to sin (*secretly or otherwise*) is only a part of the temptation. A wicked and evil heart is where temptation begins. When an evil heart has an opportunity to fulfill the evil desire, that is temptation. When the heart gives in to the temptation, that is when sin is committed (James 1.14-15).

There is no such things as secret sin in God's eyes (Num. 32.23). All sin must be confessed and covered with the blood of Jesus to avoid separation from God. Cain had an opportunity to master his sin, but chose otherwise. What about you?

– Joe Chesser

Like A Vine

Walking through a park, I passed a massive oak tree. A vine had grown up along its trunk. The vine started small--nothing to bother about. But over the years the vine had gotten taller and taller. By the time I passed, the entire lower half of the tree was covered by the vine's creepers. The mass of tiny feelers was so thick that the tree looked as though it had innumerable birds' nests in it.

Now the tree was in danger. This huge, solid oak was quite literally being taken over; the life was being squeezed from it. But the gardeners in that park had seen the danger. They had taken a saw and severed the trunk of the vine--one neat cut across the middle. The tangled mass of the vine's branches still clung to the oak, but the vine was now dead. That would gradually become plain as weeks passed and the creepers began to die and fall away from the tree. How easy it is for sin, which begins so small and seemingly insignificant, to grow until it has a

strangling grip on our lives. And yet, Christ's death has cut the power of sin. Yes, the "creepers" of sin still cling and have some effect. But sin's power is severed by Christ, and gradually, sin's grip dries up and falls away.

— J. Alistair Brown

Love in Action

This past Sunday I was editing my sermon getting it ready to publish when I observed a cause for rejoicing hidden among the obstacles. There was a time when I was strong, hearty and one who had a voice which could easily fill a hall even without a PA system. However, the current lack of volume and raspiness of my voice made the process difficult this week. Thus, I had the volume up on my laptop.

Much to my surprise, I heard sounds of joy in the background, I heard the blessing of baby noises. I tune ambient noise out when I preach so hearing these baby noises thrilled my heart. I played them over and over while thanking God for them. It is the sound of life in the congregation. Pray that more will follow and encourage those with small children to bring them. No one should be hesitant to bring a child for fear of being a disturbance.

While I'm about it, we want to thank and to praise those who are bringing their grandkids with them to services. This is a ministry you can do for Christ and a way of loving your grandchildren. Bring the older ones and the young ones. Bring them every week so they grow up in church. It's a good thing

Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1 John 2:28

Reading : Luke 16: 19-31 ; Luke 13: 23-28

NEXT WEEK : (May 30, 2021)

Song Leader : Tim

Scripture Reader : J.J.

Table & Announcements : Greg

Prayer List :

Wayne : Thank you for your prayers and your encouragement

Doris Faulkner : Sis. Doris is on hospice and fading fast.

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother is now under hospice care at home.

Vinoda Rao : A preacher in India with whom we've communicated is requesting prayers. His family has the Wuhan virus

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel, Susan, Wayne, Mary & Fay Julius, Ron & Doris Bartanen

Others with ongoing issues :

Madonna Nichols : Madonna continues to receive chemo every other week to treat her liver cancer.

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and ongoing back issues

Jerry Rankin : Jerry has multiple serious ongoing issues.

Tim Gaddis : Recovering from a stroke at the Rehab facility

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues.

Debbie Adams : Lengthy recovery from severe car accident

Mary Julius : (*sister-in-law of Ron*) Recovering from stroke

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother is on hospice and weaker

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders.**

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Ya'll Come !

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

