

Studies in Christianity Barriers to the Gates

S#1.

Dealing With Our Secret Sins

S#2.

Text : Psalm #90

A. We're studying things that can block the Christian's entrance to Heaven. S#3.

1. An unforgiving heart ... One must forgive in order to be forgiven.
2. Failure to confess one's sins ... We must own our sins before they will be forgiven.
3. Must Actively Rejection of Sin ... God will forgive one FROM sin, but never IN sin.
4. Lord willing, this lesson will discuss how we deal with our **secret sins**.

B. Our text is Psalm #90.

1. We know it was the first psalm written because it is the only psalm by Moses.
2. We know that it was the only psalm written by Moses because it is entitled, "A Prayer of Moses, the Man of God."
3. The Psalms are neither organized chronologically, by authorship nor by topic.
4. The Book of The Psalms is organized into 5 books. **S#4.**

- a. Book 1 (Psalms 1 -41)
- b. Book 2 (Psalms 42 -72)
- c. Book 3 (Psalms 73 -89)
- d. Book 4 (Psalms 90 -106)
- e. Book 5 (Psalms 107 -150)

5. The end of each book is signified by a psalm of praise, a doxology.

C. Our lesson plan is to look at : S#5.

1. Every person deals with secret sins.
2. No one can hide anything from God.
3. Why some try to hide sins.
4. How to deal with secret sins.

I. Every person deals with secret sins.

S#6.

A. In our text, Moses was dealing with secret sins.

Psa. 90: 8 – You have placed our iniquities before You,
Our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

S#7.

B. David prayed about His hidden sins.

1. We looked at his attempts to hide his adultery with Bathsheba.
2. He prayed about his other hidden sins.
 - a. **Psa. 19: 12** – Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.
 - b. It would appear David is here praying about sins accidentally overlooked.

C. It has always been the nature of man to attempt to hide his sins.

S#8.

1. Most sins are committed at night or in dark places.
 - a. Boys look for the darkest place around to take girls for spurious purposes.
 - b. That's why bars are not brightly lit, but bowling alleys are
2. Cain waited until Abel was alone in the field.
 - a. He buried him to hide his sin.
 - b. God said Abel's blood cried out to Him.
3. Moses looked around to make sure there were no witnesses, then killed the Egyptian.
 - a. Trying to hide his sin, he buried the Egyptian in the sand.
 - b. The one rescued by Moses betrayed him so he had to flee.
4. David thought he would get away with his adultery because he did it at night.

II. No one can hide anything from God.

S#9.

A. God deals with men's hearts, not their flesh.

1. **Gen. 3 : 8** ... Adam and Eve tried to hide from God
2. **Jonah 1: 1-16** ... Jonah tried to hide from God.
3. **I Sam. 16: 7** –But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

S#10.

B. God judges people by their heart, NOT their actions.

1. **Prov. 21: 2** – Every man's way is right in his own eyes,
But the Lord weighs the hearts.

S#11.

2. **I Cor. 4: 5** – Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

C. God is able to expose the motives of men's hearts because He knows every thought even before we think it.

1. **Psa. 139: 1** – O Lord, You have searched me and known me. **2** You know S#12.
when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. **3** You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it all.
2. Godly people are aware that God knows their heart and their conduct.
Psa. 69: 5 – O God, it is You who knows my folly, S#13.
And my wrongs are not hidden from You.

III. Why do the wicked try to hide their sins ? S#14.

A. Clearly, those who attempt to hide their sins will be exposed.

1. **Prov. 28:13** – He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, S#15.
But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.
2. Good or bad, all will be revealed.
I Cor. 4: 5 – Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

B. Some try to hide their action because they think they are alright.

1. **Prov. 14: 12** – There is a way which seems right to a man, S#16.
But its end is the way of death.
2. Some participate in secret sins because of the influence of the god of this world
 - a. **II Cor. 4: 3** – And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who S#17.
are perishing, **4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - b. **Eph. 2: 1** – And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which S#18.
you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
 - c. Remember ... **Daniel 10: 12ff** ... Angels of Heaven fought angels of Persia.
Vs. 21 – Daniel had an angel and so do you ... Cf. **Heb. 1: 19**

3. We struggle against “angels” of the devil.

- a. **Eph. 6: 10** – Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. S#19.
- b. We have daily combat with powerful forces.
- c. We often hide our defeats to avoid embarrassment ... never a point of pride.

C. Many count certain sins as “*little*” and regard them as insignificance.

1. **Illustrations :** Some lies are identified as “white lies.”
 - a. A lie is a lie
 - b. All lies are sin and need to be dealt with as such.
2. Some sins are so commonly practiced as to have become accepted behavior.
 - a. The use of foul language.
 - b. The use of intoxicants ... alcohol or drugs
 - c. Disrespectful behavior (**big cities**)
3. *SO ... some aren't trying to hide sin, they don't think they sinned.*

IV. How do we deal with secret sins ?

S#20.

A. The first thing is to acknowledge we have them.

1. Secret sins are things we do that are hidden from public view ... reside in the heart.
2. When Jesus called out evil thoughts as sin, He identified the hardest ones.
 - a. **Matt. 5: 22** – But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother S#21.
shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother,
' You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and
whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.
 - b. Who will admonish you about the hatred in your heart ?

B. The second thing is to acknowledge that they need to be dealt with.

1. C.P. Brown wrote, “**Beware of little sins. Mosquitos drink more blood than lions.**”
2. It doesn't matter how close one came to crossing the great abyss if he fails.
3. Evil Knievel came the closest to jumping over the Snake River canyon.

C. Overcoming secret sins requires constant self-discipline.

1. One must learn to control every thought he thinks.
2. We can't deal with outward things that tempt us until our heart is dedicated to God. (*Dealing with sin starts on the inside and works outward.*)
3. God says we can control our body and our thoughts.

a. **I Cor. 9: 27** – Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; **27** but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. S#22

b. **II Cor. 10: 5** – We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, S#23.

D. The body is limited in the sin it can commit, but the mind is not limited.

1. **Jer. 17: 9** – The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately wicked; who can understand it? S#24.
2. **Prov. 23: 7** – For as he thinks within himself, so he is.
3. **Rom. 3: 10** – as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one;”

E. One must have help to overcome secret sins.

1. This is the reason for the command in **James 5**.
James 5: 16 – Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. S#25.
2. The church is the support group for those who are recovering from sin.

CONCLUSION :

A. **Psa. 19: 12** – Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. S#26.
3 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins;
 Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless,
 And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

B. Are you dealing with your secret sins or trying to keep them hidden?

Psa. 90: 8 – You have placed our iniquities before You,
Our secret sins in the light of Your presence. S#27.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :

Psalm #90

1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

3 You turn man back into dust and say, "Return, O children of men." **4** For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night. **5** You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew. **6** In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew; toward evening it fades and withers away.

7 For we have been consumed by Your anger and by Your wrath we have been dismayed. **8** You have placed our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence. **9** For all our days have declined in Your fury; we have finished our years like a sigh. **10** As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away. **11** Who understands the power of Your anger and Your fury, according to the fear that is due You? **12** So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

13 Do return, O Lord; how long will it be? And be sorry for Your servants. **14** O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. **15** Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us, and the years we have seen evil. **16** Let Your work appear to Your servants and Your majesty to their children. **17** Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands.

NEWBORN BOY FOUND BURIED ALIVE ALONG CALIFORNIA TRAIL

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A newborn boy who had been buried alive along a hiking trail in Pasadena, Calif., was doing remarkably well at a hospital after he was found by a jogger's dog. The boy, nicknamed "Baby Christian" by social workers, was in serious condition Monday morning.

"The baby has shown remarkable recovery," Dr. Ricardo Liberman, neonatal medical director at Huntington Memorial Hospital, said Sunday. "It is really almost a miracle."

The boy was barely breathing and suffering from severe hypothermia when Azita Milanian came across him Saturday while she was running with her dog. The dog alerted her to something in the ground.

"He went after something and I thought it was a dead animal or creature," she said. "Then, as I looked deeper in the dirt, I could see it was a child."

The infant, believed to be just hours old when found, was wrapped in a blue towel. His body temperature was just 80 degrees when he arrived at the hospital. Overnight lows had dipped below 50 degrees in the area.

Milanian flagged down a passing motorist, who went to alert authorities. Milanian stayed with the infant, wrapping him in a clean towel and trying to comfort him.

"He grabbed my wrist and stopped crying," Milanian said. "It was very emotional. What kind of sick human would do something like that? He still had his umbilical cord hanging from his stomach."

The infant is expected to stay at the hospital for up to 10 days before being turned over to the county's Department of Children's Services.

Daniel 10: 10-21

Daniel Comforted

- 10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.
- 11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.
- 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and **I have come in response to your words.**
- 13 **"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.**
- 14 "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet *future*."
- 15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.
- 16 And behold, **one who resembled a human being was touching my lips;** then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, "O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength.
- 17 "For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me."
- 18 **Then *this* one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.**
- 19 He said, "O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."
- 20 Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, **the prince of Greece is about to come.**
- 21 "However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. **Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these *forces* except Michael your prince.**