

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Greg Lowery

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Charles Berryhill
David Key
Bradley Box

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Katie Berryhill

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Problem With Little Sins



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Covering of Sin

By Wayne Jackson

In a refreshing declaration, an Old Testament writer affirms:

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Psa. 32:1).

In stark relief, another biblical writer says:

“He who covers his transgressions shall not prosper...” (Prov. 28:13).

The former passage commends the covering of sin; the latter one condemns such. How are these two inspired oracles to be reconciled?

The solution to this seeming difficulty is quite simple actually. In the former text, a blessing is pronounced upon him who has his sin covered by means of God’s forgiveness. On the other hand, the writer in Proverbs is addressing the state of one who attempts to deal with his evil in a human fashion, rather than seeking Heaven’s pardon.

Generally, man is a rebel. He does not seek to do the will of his Creator, hence, he is ever involved in wickedness. Jeremiah indicts haughty humanity as follows: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly corrupt: who can know it?” (17:9).

It is hardly a wonder that human beings, stubborn as they are, should seek, in their vain imaginations, a variety of methods by which they might avoid facing the responsibility for their violations of divine law. In this article, we will review briefly several of these attempts.

Denial

One method of dealing with evil is simply to deny its reality. Atheism argues that sin does not exist. Humanists reason: There is no God. If there is no God, there is no objective code of ethics. If there is no code of ethics, there can be no transgression. Therefore, there is no such thing as sin.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Ruth Addison: ongoing health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Susie Sims (Whitehouse): has taken radiation treatments to stop a benign tumor from growing on the auditory nerve in her right ear, please pray that the treatments will be successful

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy) in March. Planning on traveling to Italy for gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Boone Bozeman: (infant son of Alicia and Cory Bozeman) is home from having surgery for a disease in his intestines, please pray that he will have a successful recovery

Tony Lawrence: is in UAB with critical injuries from a car wreck, please pray that he will be able to recover without any serious complications

Virgie McMillan (mother of Ann Box: dealing with complications from a recent stroke, please keep her in your prayers

Don Lawrence: had a temporary knee replacement because of an infection. He will be taking antibiotics to clear up the infection and then will have a total knee replacement; please be praying that the infection will clear up

Vertie York: having problems with her heart & blood pressure, she is scheduled to see a doctor in Tupelo, please pray that it is nothing serious

Karen Chaffin: has been falling and has a head injurie, please pray that the doctors can determine what is wrong and that she will have no serious problems

Upcoming Events

Today	Fellowship Meal	
September 27 th	Missionary Report {Stacy Ferguson}	10:00 am

French philosopher Jean Paul Sartre contended that whatever man chooses to do is right; we can, he affirmed, “never choose evil” (279). And so, the skeptic covers his sin by contending that it has no basis in reality.

Sigmund Freud characterized it as a mere “illusion.” What a convenient way of addressing the problem of human evil! It is much like the case of the deluded patient who has been diagnosed with a terminal malignancy. In denial, to his physician he says: “Do not be concerned, doctor; I am fine. I do not believe in cancer.”

Concealment

For centuries man has entertained the idea that he can hide his wickedness. If others do not know, what’s the difference? The difference is: wrong is still wrong, whether others are privy to it or not.

Adam and Eve sought to hide their shame from the Creator, but the effort was for naught (Gen. 3:8ff). After the battle of Jericho, Achan hid the forbidden spoils of battle beneath his tent, but God brought the rebellious deed to light (Josh. 7:20-22). A few years back, a country music song, “Slipping Around,” typified the modern attitude.

Concealment can be but a temporary respite. The day will come when that which has been done in secret will be shouted from the housetops (Lk. 12:3). God is the revealer of the secrets of men (Rom. 2:16).

Redefinition

Another ploy in dealing with evil is the alteration of vocabulary. Somehow we labor under the illusion that if we can but find a less emotive term by which to designate our vices, the evil has disappeared.

And so, drunkenness becomes “alcoholism,” adultery is merely an “affair,” sodomy is “gay,” and pornography is “adult literature.” But, as Shakespeare once noted, “... a rose by any other name smells as sweet.” And so it is —sin, under any alternate appellation, is still its vile self.

Rationalization

Rationalization is the mental process whereby one justifies his actions by assigning to them a motive that appears to legitimize the conduct. A student throws trash on the schoolroom floor and defends his act on the ground that if the janitor did not have work to do, he would have no job, hence no income with which to support his family!

King Saul of Israel disobeyed Jehovah and refused to destroy the livestock booty taken from the Amalekites. He excused himself on this basis: "... the people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice unto Jehovah your God" (1 Sam. 15:15).

America is expert in the art of rationalization. A student cheats on his final exam and feels no guilt because "others are doing it," and he "must make the grade curve." After all, a future job is at stake. We abort our babies and defend the atrocity on the basis that we must not produce millions of youngsters who will not have adequate medical and educational facilities.

Rationalization is a soothing lotion for dull conscience.

Legalization

Another way folks cover their sins is to appeal to the license of civil law. The claim frequently is: "Well, it's legal, isn't it?" A man sits in front of his TV and guzzles beer. Whose business is it? It's not against the law. A woman divorces her husband because she no longer finds him attractive. Subsequently, she marries a former boy friend. So what! It's legal.

What many obviously do not understand is that civil law is human law, and not infrequently it is in direct violation of the will of God.

Substitution

Substitution is the idea one can engage in the vices of his desire, but it really doesn't matter, because he does plenty of other things to balance the account. Good deeds are thought to gloss over base conduct. This is the common philosophy of many within the Roman Church. One is free to pursue almost any lifestyle, provided he rattles off the appropriate number of "Hail Marys."

Conclusion

Human attempts to cover disobedience are futile. The wise person will let the Lord handle the problem—in his appointed way. In the divine plan of redemption, Jesus Christ becomes the "covering" ("propitiation"—Rom. 3:25) for sin. By virtue of the Lord's sacrifice at Calvary, and our reponse to his will, our sins can be covered.

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