Covering Sins (Wrong & Right Ways)

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 7th, 2019

Text: Rom. 4:7-8

### Intro

1. People who sin usually do not want their sins exposed!
   1. Jn. 3:19-21: Those who do evil love the dark and don’t want light to expose their deeds!
   2. This is especially true of people who don’t even pretend to practice righteousness – they do not want to hear that what they do is wrong or evil; they seek approval (Is. 5:20).
2. Rom. 4:7-8 (Ps. 32:1-2): “How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!” *(Ps. 32:1)*
   1. There is something about sin that makes people want it to be covered!
3. There are two ways in which men try to cover their sins:
   1. Wrong Way (NKJ: Prov. 28:13): “He who covers his sins will not prosper.”
   2. Right Way (Ps. 85:2): “You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.”
4. In having our sins covered let us make sure it is done the right way and not the wrong way!

#### **Reasons People Want to Cover Their Sins**

* 1. Jn. 3:19-20: Those who practice sin hate the light lest their deeds get exposed!
     1. They don’t want to hear that they are wrong or evil.
     2. Those of the world love the darkness for they try to cover their sins.
  2. Jn. 3:21: Those who practice the truth step into the light – their deeds laid bare.
     1. Not that they are perfect, but their sins are covered by God – Rom. 4:7
  3. People want their sins covered to avoid the disapproval of God Who can punish and condemn!
     1. Adam and Eve in the beginning of sin hid from God in order to cover their sin! *(Gen. 3:1-8)*
     2. They could not hide from God and neither can people today – Heb. 4:12-13
     3. God is a God who sees! (Gen. 16:13; Psalms 139:7-12; Mt. 10:29-31)
  4. The voice of God caused Adam & Eve to come out of hiding *(Gen. 3:8-10)* and confess their sins.
     1. Mankind today needs to stop trying to “cover” their own sins, and come to the voice of God (through His word), realize their own spiritual “nakedness,” confess their sins, and obey Jesus for a “covering!”
     2. Mankind covering their own sins is like a man-hole covering the sewer. The waste and smell is still there, even if people say they can’t see it!
  5. We all want our sins covered – we just need to make sure it is the right way!

#### **The Wrong Way to Cover Sins**

* 1. Prov. 28:13: Solomon tells us the outcome of people trying to cover up their own sins.
     1. Most everyone tries to cover their sins the wrong way: “cover up” (Conceal).
     2. Ps. 139:7-12: Can’t hide from God! *(Heb. 4:13) – A God who sees, Gen. 16:13*
  2. Examples of those who tried to cover their sins the wrong way (like child covering eyes):
     1. Adam & Eve tried to place blame on someone else (Adam blamed Eve; Eve blamed the serpent) – *Gen. 3:12-13*
     2. Achan tried to hide his sin (banned plunder) under his tent – *Josh. 7*
     3. David tried to cover up his sin of adultery and committed more sin (murder) in the process – *II Sam. 11-12*
     4. Ahab tried to cover his sin of theft with a mock trial (liars placed by Jezebel) – *I Kings 21:1-16*
     5. Others try lying or pretending their sin doesn’t exist.
  3. Time is another way people try to cover their sins
     1. Many people think that if enough time passes, repentance is not necessary.
     2. Eccl. 12:14; I Cor. 4:5; II Cor. 5:10; Heb. 4:13; 10:31: Nothing is hidden from God! Time will not cover (or erase) our sins! *God sees our deeds!*
  4. People who cover sins the wrong way only have “a terrifying expectation of judgment!” *(Heb. 10:27)*

#### **The Right Way to Cover Sins**

* 1. Ps. 85:2: The only way to really cover sins the right way is through forgiveness! (Prov. 28:13b)
     1. Man’s way of covering sins will fail (Prov. 28:13a) – Still there!
        1. Buried – still there, rotting or decaying under the surface
        2. Man-hole cover – still there, occasionally steam or smell seep out!
     2. God’s way covers them, never to be seen again! (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:12; 10:17) – Wiped away, erased, a “clean slate!” *(or, white board!)*
  2. Forgiveness can even cover those who first tried to cover sin the wrong way:
     1. David was forgiven when he confessed his sin – II Sam. 12:13
     2. Ahab was forgiven when he humbled himself before God – I Kings 21:27-29 *(Disclaimer: The evil from God in his sons’ days would come about because of his many sins, I Kings 21:25-26, and his sons’ sins, II Chr. 22:2-4, 7)*
  3. What are the terms for forgiveness to the unbeliever?
     1. They must have faith in Christ and confess Him as Lord (Jn. 8:24; Acts 8:37)
     2. They must repent of their sins (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30)
     3. They must obey the gospel in baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16)
     4. They must live a faithful life (Jn. 8:31; Rev. 2:10)
  4. What are the terms for forgiveness to erring Christians?
     1. They must confess (acknowledge) their sins (Prov. 28:13b; I Jn. 1:9)
     2. They must repent of their sins (Acts 8:22a)
     3. They must seek forgiveness and reconciliation with their brother (or whoever they have wronged or have a problem with) – Mt. 5:23-24; Eph. 4:26-27, 31-32
     4. They must ask God for forgiveness (Acts 8:22b; Js. 5:16; I Jn. 1:9)
  5. The outcome of meeting the conditions for forgiveness:
     1. Rom. 4:7-8: Blessings of having sin covered and not taken into account by God!
  6. Those who seek to cover their sins the right way will be blessed and forgiven!

## Conclusion

1. We have observed that those who practice sin don’t usually want their wickedness exposed.
   1. Those who live in the dark (Jn. 3:19-20), even if they act unashamed, usually try to cover their sins through acceptance (Is. 5:20) of sin.
   2. If people generally accept wickedness as good then they feel they are covered and don’t have to “hide.” (Abortion, homosexuality, fornication through living together, etc.)
2. Eccl. 12:14; Rom. 14:12; II Cor. 5:10:
   1. All will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and will give account of their deeds, whether good or bad.
   2. If they have lived trying to cover their own sins, their sins will be uncovered and they will face eternal punishment! *(Rom. 2:6, 8-9; II Thess. 1:8-9; Heb. 4:13)*
   3. If they live confessing their sins and repenting of them after obeying the gospel, their sins will remain covered *(Heb. 10:17)* and they will receive the reward of eternal life! *(Rom. 2:6-7, 10; Rev. 2:10)*
3. Let us avoid trying to cover our own sins where they will one day be uncovered and judged, but instead seek to have God forgive and cover our sins, never to be seen again!
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized and have your sins covered!
5. If a Christian in error, repent and be forgiven, having your sins covered!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!