



“Cleanse Me from Secret Sins”

Psalm 19:12-14

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- “...Cleanser me from secret faults. 13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”

“Cleanse Me from Secret Sins”

- Sin is powerful -- “One great power of sin is that it blinds men so that they do not recognize its true character.” (*Andrew Murray*)
- Sin is pervasive -- “Secret sins commonly lie nearest the heart.” (*Thomas Brooks*)
- Sin is progressive -- “He that avoideth not small faults, by little and little falleth into greater.” (*Thomas a Kempis*)

“Cleanse Me from Secret Sins”

- Secret sins are the most dangerous of all:
 - We often do not notice their presence
 - If we know of them, we easily rationalize them
 - If we have worked to keep them secret, we live in confidence that no one will find out and try to help us overcome them
 - Because they are secret, we have no one to protect us from them
 - They remain inside us, until like a hidden cancer in our body, they destroy our spiritual health, often terminally.

“Cleanse Me from Secret Sins”

- The Bible speaks of three kinds of secret sins:
 - Sins of which we are not aware
 - Sins that are concealed from others
 - Sins that are committed in the heart

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Of Which We Are Not Aware

- Lev. 5:14-19 - “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 15 If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things of the LORD, then he shall bring to the LORD as his trespass offering a ram without blemish from the flocks, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering. 16 And he shall make restitution for the harm that he has done in regard to the holy thing, and shall add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him. 17 If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity. 18 And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him. 19 It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the LORD.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Of Which We Are Not Aware

- Sins committed unknowingly, undiscerningly, in ignorance
 - “Known” - Strong’s H3045 - “yada” - “to be made known, perceived, instructed.”
 - “Secret” Psalm 19:12 - Strong’s H5641 - “sawthar” - “to be hidden, concealed.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Of Which We Are Not Aware

- How are secret sins discovered and avoided?
 - Be aware of our potential for this kind of sin.
 - Like David, pray to God about them, asking His help in discerning them
 - Be diligent in self-examination
 - 2Cor. 13:5 - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Of Which We Are Not Aware

- Be a dedicated student of God's Word
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
 - The Word of God is the instrument by which we discern sin
 - Rom. 7:7 - "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, You shall not covet."
 - Rom. 3:20 - "...for by the law is the knowledge of sin"

Secret Sins Can Be Sins That Are Concealed From Others

- Sin seeks secrecy
 - Eph. 5:12 - “For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.”
 - Psalm 90:8 - “You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins That Are Concealed From Others

- The thief, sensuous, murderer, false teachers, etc., all want anonymity
 - John 3:20-21 - “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”
- These kinds of secret sins will not likely remain secret
 - Num. 32:23 - “But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins That Are Concealed From Others

- Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11
- Jonah - Jonah 1:1-15
- David and Bathsheba - 2Sam. 12:1-14
- Gehazi - 2Kings 5:23-27
- Achan - Joshua 7:10-26

Secret Sins Can Be Sins That Are Concealed From Others

- All secret sins, though often unknown to others, are known in complete detail by God
 - Matt. 6:4, 6, 18 - “That your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly... 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly... 18 So that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”
 - Psalm 69:5 - “O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins That Are Concealed From Others

- Secret sins burden the offender's soul
 - Psalm 32:2-5 - "Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, And You forgave the iniquity of my sin."
 - Psalm 38:4 - "For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me."

Secret Sins Can Be Sins That Are Concealed From Others

- All secret sins will be exposed in the Judgment
 - Ecc. 12:14 - “For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”
 - Luke 12:2-5 - “For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. 4 And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”
 - 1Tim. 5:24 - “Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Committed In The Heart

- Ez. 8:12 - “Then He said to me, Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.”
- These kinds of secret sins can consist of:

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Committed In The Heart

- Impurity of thought
 - Matt. 5:27-28 - “You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not commit adultery. 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- Improper motives
 - Phil. 1:15-16 - “Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Committed In The Heart

- Impious attitudes
 - Luke 15:25-32 and the older brother of the Prodigal son
- Injury of the conscience
 - Rom. 14:23 - “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Committed In The Heart

- Although secret sins take place in the heart, they are still sins
 - 1John 3:15 - “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer...”
 - Matt. 5:21-22 - “You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Committed In The Heart

- Sins in the heart often find expression in overt action
 - Prov. 4:23 - “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”
 - Prov. 23:7 - “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Committed In The Heart

- Remember: God knows what is happening in our hearts
 - 1Kings 8:39 - “Then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men)”
 - Psalm 139:1-2 - “O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.”

Secret Sins Can Be Sins Committed In The Heart

- Jer. 16:17 - "For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes."
- Luke 12:2 - "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known."
- Heb. 4:13 - "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

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- All secret sins can be forgiven
 - Prov. 28:13 - “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”
 - 2Chron. 7:14 - “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”
 - 1John 1:9 - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

“Cleanse Me from Secret Sins”

- “Take heed of secret sins. They will undo thee if loved and maintained: one moth may spoil the garment; one leak drown the ship; a penknife stab and kill a man as well as a sword; nay, there is more danger of a secret sin causing the miscarrying of the soul than open profaneness, because they are not so obvious to the reproofs of the world; therefore, take heed that secret sins destroy not our good beginnings.” *(Jeremiah Burroughs)*