

# Two Texts, Two Coverings, Two Consequences

Prov 28:13 and Ps 85:2

## Introduction:

1. The salesman kissed his wife good-bye and drove off for the two day sales conference. Arriving at his hotel, he removed his wedding ring and called his girlfriend to tell her that he had arrived. His wife thought he was in Evansville but he had gone in the opposite direction to Indianapolis. He and his girlfriend were in the room and they heard a terrible crash outside. Looking out the hotel window they could see flames and wreckage in a field next to the airport. They heard that a small, private plane had crashed. The newspaper the next morning had a front page article and picture of the wreckage that was taken from the hotel parking lot. The salesman returned home and greeted his wife. She asked how the conference was in Evansville. The salesman told his wife that he learned some new sales techniques.  
“What was your car doing in Indianapolis?” she asked.  
“What do you mean? I was in Evansville.” He replied.  
His wife grabbed the newspaper and showed him the picture of the smoking wreckage which had been taken from the hotel parking lot. In the picture was the back of the salesman’s car with his license plate clearly visible. He had been found out and he had to come clean with his wife.
2. Sin always has unintended consequences. Take the Seattle man, for example, who tried to steal gasoline from a motor home. Attaching a siphoning hose to the vehicle, he started to work; but police found him shortly afterward writhing in agony in the street. Seems he had attached the hose, not to the gasoline tank, but to the motor home's sewage tank! The owner declined to press charges; he was too busy laughing.
3. This morning we want to look at two Bible texts which deal with two coverings for sin and two consequences.

## **I. Man's Covering – Prov 28:13**

**13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**

### **A. Man Tries to Cover His Sin by Hiding and Secrecy**

1. "Covering" involves concealing or hiding
2. Men have a number of ways in which they try to conceal their sin
3. Some commit their sins in the dark in order to hide them
4. Some use secrecy thinking that no one would see them
  - a) *They were so careful - no one saw them /could divulge the action*
  - b) *Perhaps they went to some strange city to meet their lover*
    - (1) No one would recognize them
    - (2) No one would be able to tell the spouse
  - c) *Achan is an example of this behavior*
    - (1) Walls of Jericho fell and Achan took the gold, silver, Babylonian sport coat
    - (2) He hoped that the confusion of battle would hide the event
    - (3) In the midst of the dust and debris he snatched the goods
    - (4) Perhaps in the middle of the night he dug the hole and buried the stuff
    - (5) He smoothed the dirt and put the carpet back thinking that everything was ok
    - (6) He forgot about that omniscient eye – God sees all
    - (7) "Beware your sin will find you out."
5. Are you guilty of secret sin?
  - a) *Believe me, that sin is known to God*
  - b) *The bloodhounds of judgment will sniff it out*
  - c) *It is vain to think that you have concealed your sin*
6. Adam and Eve thought they could hide from God
7. Regardless of how people try to cover their sin, this is the wrong way to handle sin
8. No one can really cover his sin anyway - because your sin will find you out - Num 32:23

### **B. Some Try to Cover Their Sins by Making Excuses – Gen 3**

1. Some deny that they have sinned
2. Others, admitting their sin, begin to make excuses for it
  - a) *"I broke God's law, but it was too severe"*
  - b) *"To keep God's perfect law is impossible."*
  - c) *"I sinned, but I am only human. I have human passions."*
  - d) *"I am an innocent victim. I should be pitied. I am a victim of circumstance. I couldn't help it."*
3. Often a person puts the onus of his sin on God in these excuses
  - a) *Imagine the prisoner in the court room bringing accusations against the judge who is to try him.*
  - b) *Imagine accusing a sinless God of being the cause of sin*
4. Adam and Eve are examples of this behavior
  - a) *Like Adam who tried to blame God for his sin*
  - b) *Since it was God who gave to him Eve*

### **C. Some Try to Cover Their Sin by Deceit and Lying**

1. David committed adultery with Bathsheba
  - a) *He sent for her husband and told him to go home to be with his wife*
  - b) *He eventually had Uriah killed in battle*
  - c) *Finally the prophet was sent to David from God*
2. Gehazi tried to cloak his guilt by lying
  - a) *“Where were you?”*
  - b) *“I wasn’t anywhere.”*
  - b) *The leprosy of Naaman went onto Gehazi*
3. How many thought they could scheme and throw the blame on others
  - a) *“What a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive”*
  - b) *But to lie to God – of what help can that be?*
  - c) *You can’t plead “not guilty” when God has seen you commit the act*
4. Even if you could escape the crime in this life, don’t forget that everyone will stand before God sometime

### **D. Some Think that the Things of Man can Blot Out Sins**

1. Your tears cannot blot out your sins
2. The waters of baptism cannot remove sin
3. Sacraments or confession to a priest cannot absolve of sin
4. All your good works cannot banish one sin

### **E. The Consequence**

1. None of the above methods will work to remove sin
2. Our text said that these “shall not prosper”
3. Nothing that man can do can remove sin

## **II. God’s Covering – Ps 85:2**

**2** Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.

### **A. The Only Successful Way to Handle Sin – “forgiven”**

1. Prov told us that one who tried to cover his sins would not prosper
2. Man can’t remove his sin, but God can
3. Someone must pay for sin – Jesus is our Substitute
  - a) *Eph 1:7 In whom [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*
  - b) *1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
4. Admit that you are a sinner
5. Trust Christ as Savior

## **B. The Only One Who Can Cover Sin – “Thou has covered”**

1. What man can't do, God can do
2. “Covered” – to cover over, hide

**(Ps 32:1)** Blessed [is he whose] transgression [is] forgiven, [whose] sin [is] covered. 5) I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

3. Your sins will be covered by the blood
  - a) *The blood is perfect*
  - b) *The blood is pure*
  - c) *The blood is perpetual*
  - d) *The blood is powerful*
  - e) *The blood is permanent*
  - f) *The blood is precious*
  - g) *The blood is protective*

### Conclusion:

1. The evangelist came into town to preach a series of meetings. One night he preached on, “The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all sin.” - 1Jn 1:7 After the service, a stranger asked the preacher to walk home with him. Local residents advised against it - they knew who the man was. The preacher went with him anyway. Off into the night they went and the man ushered the preacher through the back door of a building. The stranger locked the door and put the key back into his pocket. “Don’t be afraid. I’m not going to hurt you. I just want to ask you a few questions. Do you believe what you preached tonight?”

The preacher answered, “I most certainly do.”

The man continued, “We’re in the back of a saloon. I am the owner of this saloon. Often mothers come in here and lay their babies on the counter and beg me not to sell liquor to their husbands. I turn a deaf ear to their cries. I make sure that when a man leaves here he is drunk. More than once a man has been killed crossing the railroad tracks near the saloon. Tell me, preacher, can God forgive a man like me?”

The preacher replied, “I have but one authority, the Word of God and it says “the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin.”

“That’s not all,” said the stranger. “In another room I run a gambling hall. If a man doesn’t spend all his money on liquor, I take him into that room and use marked cards to see that he is fleeced of his last dollar. I send him home penniless to a hungry family. Preacher, I am the sole owner. Tell me honestly, can God forgive a man with a heart like that?”

Again the preacher answered, “I have but one authority, the Word of God which says, “the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us fro all sin.”

The man spoke again. “That’s not all. Across the street is my home where I live with my wife and daughter. Neither one has heard a kind word from me in the last five years. Their bodies bear the marks of my brutal attacks. Pastor, do you think that God could forgive a man with a heart like mine?”

The preacher lowered his head. His eyes filled with tears, “Sir, you have painted one of the darkest pictures that I have ever gazed upon, but I have one authority which says, “the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.” The man opened the door and ushered the preacher outside into the cold night air. Not until the next morning did the man leave the saloon.

He spent the night tearing up decks of cards and pouring liquor down the drain. Finally he went home and sat in the living room.

His little daughter rain into the room. “Daddy, mom says that breakfast is ready,” He answered the little girl with a kind voice and gentle words.

The little girl ran back into the kitchen. “Daddy spoke kind to me! Something is wrong.” The mother followed the little girl into the living room.

The man beckoned to them sitting one on each knee. He explained to their amazement that they had a new husband and a new father. “I’m done with that business across the street!” The man soon became a part of a Detroit church and later he became a leading official in that church. When asked how his life was changed he would always say, “the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from all sins.”

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