

And Some They Follow After

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after." - 1 Timothy 5:24

There are those who live as they want to, and don't care what anybody thinks about them. We may not agree with the way that they choose to live, but we may note that they are at least honest about it. There is no "putting on" with such a person; they do what they like, at least as much as they can. I have to at least admire their "honesty" even though I don't agree with their sins.

Then there is the group who like their sin and pursue their pleasure but don't want people to know about it. They try to keep their sins hidden and to look good in the eyes of society. If we go back and look in the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel, chapter 15, we see Saul saying, *"I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God."* Saul wanted to look good in the eyes of the people. It was a shame that he did not have the same interest in looking good in the eyes of God.

King David was another man who hid his sin of adultery and

murder. Yet, God knew of it and judged him for it. We can hide our sins from man but it is the fool who thinks that he can hide them from God. They not only can, they will, come back to face us if we try to hide sins, not just deeds, but even the desire and thoughts are seen by the Lord. While all men have sinned, not all men want to continue in sin. For those who repent and ask God to forgive them, they find peace and mercy from God. *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."* - Proverbs 28:13.

Ananias and his wife Sapphira, in Acts 5:1, are another example of those who would do wrong and think that it was hidden from everyone. It was not known by men, except for the man who bought the land from them, but it was known by the Lord who revealed it to Peter. They were surprised to find out that God told Peter about their lies. So much so that they fell down dead when their sin was made known. How much more when, on the Day of Judgment, the Lord called to task the secret sins of mankind. The hidden lust, greed, hate, along with the evil deeds that were done will be shown in the light of God's judgment. Then it will be too late to say, "I'm sorry" for the time of repentance is now.

Do men liken the justice and judgment of God to the justice and judgment of this world? If so, then they are in for a big surprise

when they stand before the God of creation. Here in this world allowance is made for who a person is. If he is famous, or rich, he can get away with things the average person can't. Some people argue that this isn't so, but common sense and trials that we have witnessed show that it is true. A poor unknown person has little chance against an important figure in society.

But when you step into God's courtroom it all changes. There is truth and justice in the purest form. The Lord is no respecter of persons and each person will face the Lord on his own. There is no advantage for being important, rich, or popular in this world. God looks at the heart, the life and the complete person. If Jesus is your defender, your Savior, you will be alright, but if you trust in position, works, or anything, or anyone else, you will be condemned. There will be no appeal for God's judgment is perfect and final.

Some will look good in the eyes of men, and folks will think that there is no way that they could fail. They will have many works to boast of and will look good in the eyes of mankind. *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* - Matthew 7:22-23.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

A BRIDE FOR ISAAC
ABRAHAM'S STEWARD, ELIEZER, AT THE REQUEST OF HIS MASTER, HAS PREPARED A SMALL CARAVAN TO JOURNEY TO THE LAND OF THE CHALDEES IN SEARCH OF A WIFE FOR ABRAHAM'S SON, ISAAC....

...HEAVILY LADEN WITH RICH GIFTS AND PROVISIONS, THE CARAVAN SETS OFF ON THE LONG JOURNEY...

...TO FULFILL ABRAHAM'S HOPES TO SEE HIS SON MARRIED BEFORE HE DEPARTS THIS LIFE...

...THE CARAVAN IS GUARDED BY MANY ARMED SERVANTS, FOR, IN THESE ANCIENT TIMES, TO GO ON A JOURNEY, UNDEFENDED, WOULD BE AN OPEN INVITATION TO AN ATTACK BY THIEVES AND ROBBERS!

DAY AND NIGHT, THE CARAVAN PLODS ON, MOVING EASTWARD...

...UNTIL, AT LONG LAST, ELIEZER COMES TO THE LAND OF ABRAHAM'S BIRTH, THE LAND OF THE CHALDEES - AND NOW HIS REAL WORK WILL BEGIN - TO DILIGENTLY SEEK A PROPER MAIDEN AS A BRIDE FOR ISAAC!

JOHN LEHTI

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