

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Secret Things

(Jerry Fite)

One aspect of the final Judgement, reflecting the unique power of God, is that secret things will be brought to light. God will “*judge the secrets of men*” in the last day (Romans 2:16). Occasionally, men hide secrets from others for a life time. No man can see what we are thinking. But “*all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do*” (Hebrews 4:13)

God should be feared and obeyed because He “will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or evil (Ecclesiastes 12:14). The fact that hidden things, brought to the judgment, are evil and good is both sobering and encouraging.

In the Judgment, every unsolved murder will be solved. Each one will be infallibly connected with the guilty perpetrator. The murderer may have befuddled the experts with craftiness leaving behind no traces, but God is never fooled. He never needs fingerprint, hair or blood traces. He saw clearly the crime when it occurred. He was at the crime scene way before the yellow tape was placed keeping people from contaminating the evidence. There is

no such thing as an unsolved murder “before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

One may say he is not jealous or envious. But God knows if he is lying or not. Men may never detect if you are coveting, lusting or looking at them with an evil eye, but God discerns all these secrets. These works of the flesh are not outward deeds, but are inward thoughts. They may lead to outward deeds such as blasphemy, stealing and fornication, but God saw these seed thoughts as they occurred and labeled them sin (*cf. Galatians 5:19-21, Mark 7:21-23*). In the Judgement, God will bring these unforgiven secret things before man for him to answer.

Secret things brought to the Judgment are also good. The gift and prayers you offered with no public fanfare, God sees and remembers (*Matthew 6:1-15*). Those private times, when you were disciplining your flesh with fasting, God saw and recompenses (*Matthew 6:16-18*). Every “good” deed we do in the body will accompany us as we stand before the judgment-seat of Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:10*). Remember this dear Christian on those days you feel low, and think no one appreciates the things you do. Look

up! God always sees and appreciates the good you do. In the end, this is all that really matters.

Knowing the secret things, whether they are good or evil will follow us to the Judgment should cause us to live more carefully before God. Like Achan, many think if they hide their sin from man, then they can get away with it (*Joshua 7:21*). Achan learned that God sees the hidden things, and punishes the guilty (*Joshua 7:25-26*).

We should live life from the inside out. We should read the Word of God in earnest, allowing God’s law to take deep root in our heart. Humbled, we should admit with David, “*who can discern his errors?*” (*Psalms 19:12*). Like David, we should implore God to “clear” us from our “*hidden faults*”, those sins of which we are not aware. When becoming aware of our errors, and convicted by God’s law working in our heart, we should submit to God’s conditions of forgiveness by confessing our sins, repent and pray for God to forgive us of our sins (*1 John 1:9, Acts 8:22*).

By fearing God and keeping His commandments, we will be making sure that the “secret things in our life will only be “good” in the Judgment.