

BE SURE YOUR SINS WILL FIND YOU OUT
(Numbers 32:23)

I. False ideas about escaping sin.

- A. Some hope to escape by lapse of time.
 - 1. Time doesn't heal the wounds of sin.
 - 2. As one said, there is no statute of limitations on paying the debt of sin.
 - 3. One cannot be in sin for years and then just come back to Christ as if nothing has happened and fail to repent.
 - 4. David sinned with Bathsheba and was told by God what would happen because of it (2 Samuel 12:11-12, 14).
 - a. The child died soon.
 - b. But it was years later before Absalom rebelled against God.
 - c. Time didn't wipe out God's justice.
 - 5. Lot made the selfish decision to pitch his tent towards Sodom and years later it cost the life of some of his children and his wife.
- B. Some hope to escape by concealing the sin.
 - 1. Caan tried to bury his sin in the ground and it cried out.
 - 2. Adam and Eve hid from God but He found them.
 - 3. Achan buried his goods under his tent.
 - 4. Ananias and Sapphira lied to God.
 - 5. What is interesting is that when someone seems to have gotten away with something their conscience stings so much that many turn themselves in or confess to sinning.
- C. Some hope to escape by good works.
 - 1. Going from doing bad to doing good is a great thing, but unless pardon has been received from Jesus, the sin of old still remains.
 - 2. In nature, nothing is completely annihilated.
 - a. The state of coal or a plant or a body in the ground will change but never be annihilated until the earth is destroyed.
 - b. So it is with sin - it is never annihilated by nature or time or works, only by the blood of Christ.
- D. The consequences of sin cannot be hid.
- E. It is an eternal law that sin cannot be covered, will be found out and that its effects will remain and some way be revealed.

II. Classifications of sins.

- A. We are told of secret sins.
 - 1. These are those deeds done that are only known to God and the one who committed the sin.
 - 2. Proverbs 28:13.
 - 3. Our cry should be that of the Psalmist: "Cleanse thou me from secret faults" (Psalm 19:12).
- B. We think of some sins as being little.
 - 1. Most of us would never steal, commit murder, commit adultery or things we think of as being big sins.

2. We avoid the big ones but sear our consciences with little sins.
 3. As one wrote, we escape the rocks and wreck upon the sand.
 4. A cigarette thrown out of a car window can start a huge forest fire.
 5. A little scratch on a diamond ruins its value.
 6. Little sins make way for much larger ones and their reward is just as great as murder or any other sin.
- C. We know of the sins of youth (Psalm 25:7).
1. Paul told Timothy to flee youthful lusts (2 Timothy 2:22).
 2. The young person who thinks he can sin with out consequence makes a fatal mistake.
 3. We will reap that which we have sown (Galatians 6:7).
- D. There are sins of commission.
1. Ananias and Sapphira deliberately lied.
 2. David deliberately sinned with Bathsheba.
 3. We intentionally do things that are wrong and God knows when we do these things.
- E. There are sins of omission.
1. Failure to perform a duty has great consequences.
 2. If it is in your power to relieve a widow or one in need of help and fail to do so it is sin.
 3. You may know you are in need of salvation and never come to Christ - you are sinning.
 4. James 4:17.

III. **How our sin can find us out.**

- A. Sin can find you out in your body.
1. Certain diseases follow certain sins.
 2. There is a very close connection between sin and its physical consequences.
 3. Some are noticeable, such as pregnancy before marriage.
 4. Others manifest themselves in later years like lung cancer because of smoking.
 5. Many stomach problems are caused by the sin of worry.
- B. Sin can find you out in your character.
1. No one wants to be known as an addict, a thief or a liar.
 2. Sin freely chosen leads to defects of character that will eventually destroy the moral nature of a person.
 3. If left unchecked, it will cause us to go so far from God that we cannot be brought back to Him.
- C. Sin can find you out in your conscience.
1. Sin destroys self-respect.
 2. Isaiah 48:22.
 3. We suffer physically because of the torment of an accusing conscience.
 4. It is the accuser in one's own heart.
- D. Sin can be found out in future generations.
1. The consequences of sin can be inflicted on others.

2. Saul's sins brought death to his sons.
 3. The one who weakens his body, destroys his mind, sears his conscience and destroys his reputation will curse his offspring.
- E. Sin can be found out in society.
1. If you are dishonest in business it will come out.
 2. If you are adulterous it will be found out.
 3. Ecclesiastes 10:20.
- F. Sin will be found out by God.
1. If you escape society and family and friends, you will not escape God.
 2. You can fool us here in worship but you can't fool God.
 3. Galatians 6:7.
 4. God knew Adam's sin, Ananias's sin, David's sin and all others as well.
 5. God knows your sins.
- G. Sin will be made known on the day of judgment.
1. Hebrews 9:27.
 2. All things hidden shall be revealed on that day.
 3. On that day there won't be chance of pardon or escape.

From a sermon by John Brandt