

# COVERING SIN

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Bible in both O.T. and N.T. speaks of covering sin and identifies both the proper and the improper way to do it, or how it can be done and how it cannot be done.
2. There are at least three Bible texts that speak of covering sin, Psa.32:1-5; Rom.4:1-8; Jas.5:19,20.
3. There are some things which do not and can not cover sin.
  - a. Some people may think that they do and even practice them as means to that end.
  - b. But that does not make it so.
4. In this lesson we shall first take a look at some things which do not cover sin.
5. Then, at how, when, and by whom sins are covered.

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS DOES NOT COVER SIN, NEVER DID, NEVER WILL.

1. Heb.10:1-4,11.
2. It takes the blood of Jesus Christ to cover sin and save men.
  - a. Lk.19:10; Heb.9:12,15,22,26b; 2:9; Eph.1:7; Col.1:14; 1Jno.1:7.
  - b. Rom.5:8,9; Rev.1:5.

### B. THE LOVE OF GOD ALONE DOES NOT COVER SIN.

1. True, God loves man with the greatest of love, Jno.3:16; 1Jno.4:9.
2. Love alone will not cover sin. God loves all men, according to Jno.3:16; but not all men are going to be saved, according to Mt.7:13,14; therefore, love alone will not cover sin.
3. Some mistakenly believe that God loves man too much to allow man to be love. The Scriptures prove this to be false, Mt.10:28; Rom.2:6-11; 11:22.

### C. GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE DOES NOT COVER SIN.

1. No one can sin and then run off to some other place no matter how far away with his sins being forgiven by such an adventure.
2. Sin is sin wherever one might go, 1Jno.3:4; Gal.6:7,8.
3. You can't run and hide from sin, Psa.139:1-12; Num.32:23; Heb.4:13.

**D. MORAL GOODNESS DOES NOT COVER SIN.**

1. This has been and is the thinking of many.
  - a. Just be good! He was a good man!
  - b. True, we must be morally good.
  - c. But goodness alone will not cover sin.
2. Cornelius the good moral man is proof of this proposition.
  - a. Ac.10:1,2,22.
  - b. As good as he was, yet he was unsaved, Ac.10:1-6; 11:13,14.
3. It takes more than moral goodness to cover sin.
  - a. Mt.7:21.
  - b. Lk.6:46.
  - c. Heb.5:8,9; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10.

**E. PRAYER ALONE WILL NOT COVER SINS, EITHER OF THE ALIEN OR THE ERRING CHILD OF GOD.**

1. Prov.28:9; Jno.9:31.
2. The alien is told to believe and obey the gospel in order to be saved; never told to pray for pardon.
3. Prayer is for the penitent child of God who is confessing his sins, Ac.8:20-24; 1Jno.1:9.
4. Or prayer is for the faithful child of God who is praising God and praying according to God's revealed will, Jas.1:5,6; 1Jno.3:22; 5:14; 1Pet.3:12.
5. Many misapply passages that refer to the Christian's praying; such as: 1Jno.1:9, which is written to Christians, not aliens.

**F. TIME DOES NOT COVER SINS.**

1. Some seem to think that because man forgets that God will also; not so! The only way God will not remember sin against man is if he forgives it. Cf. Heb.8:12.
2. Waiting around for men to forget does not cover sin; for God calls upon all men to repent, Ac.17:30; Lk.13:3.

**G. FAITH ALONE WILL NOT COVER SIN.**

1. In spite of the fact that many believe it, teach it, and practice it; it is not Bible doctrine; it's a perverted gospel. Cf. Gal.1:6-9.
2. Jas.2:14-16; 1Pet.4:17,18; 2Th.1:6-10; Mk.16:15,16; Heb.5:8,9; Mt.7:21-27; Lk.6:46.
3. Nothing alone will cover sin. See Eph.2:8.

**H. HOW, WHEN AND BY WHOM SINS ARE COVERED, Rom.4:1-8; Cf. Ps.32:1-5.**

Having mentioned Abraham as an example of justification by faith in Rom.4:1-5, wherein the reward is reckoned of grace, not of debt, the apostle Paul, in Rom.4:6-8, proceeds to summon David as a witness to the same truth by quoting Ps.32:1,2, wherein David affirms that sins are covered through Divine forgiveness of iniquities; that this is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin, or to whom God will not count or regard as guilty of sin; that he is counted righteous because he is forgiven; he is justified.

Psa.32:1-5 reveals to us the truly blessed or happy man Vs the miserable man under the burden of his sins.

1. In Vv.1,2, the blessedness or happiness of the forgiven is declared as a doctrine.
  - a. We are taught here that the forgiveness of transgressions by which sin is covered is the gracious act of God. Cf. Isa.43:25; 1Jno.1:7,9.
  - b. That as a result, the forgiven one:
    - (1) Is blessed or happy; blessed spiritually; he is prospering spiritually.
    - (2) Is one who sin is covered or pardoned; put out of site; hidden; he is treated as if he had not sinned.
    - (3) Is one to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity; to whom he charges no guilt of sin.

2. In Vv.3-5, the blessedness of the forgiven is illustrated as a fact by David himself, where he presents two pictures of his own case: A before and after.
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> picture, Vv.3,4
    - (1) In Vv.3,4, he speaks of his miserable condition suffering in both body and soul when under the conscious guilt of sin and while delaying his repentance and confession of it.
    - (2) It is constant. It lasted as long as he kept silence.
    - (3) The struggle with conscience was fearful. Neither day nor night was there any relief for him.
    - (4) The Lord's hand was continually heavy upon him.
  - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> picture, V.5: The condition on which his blessedness was finally realized; that is, when he became the forgiven one whose sins were covered by God.
    - (1) When he in penitence acknowledged his sin unto the Lord.
    - (2) When he no longer hid (concealed) his iniquity.
    - (3) When he confessed his transgressions to the Lord.
    - (4) Here, and only here, is the end of the struggle with sin for the child of God – repentance and confession, then forgiveness and peace with both God and self.
    - (5) In repentance there is a change of mind and a turning from the practice of sin, resulting in a reformation of life.
    - (6) The confession of sin must be:
      - (a) Made to God.
      - (b) Frank and full: "I acknowledge my sin," not "if I have sinned." Cf. Ac.8:22; Jas.5:16; 1Jno.1:9.

### III. CONCLUSION

1. Don't make the mistake of seeking to cover sin by improper, unscriptural, ineffective means that leave sins in place unforgiven, even multiplied. Man often seeks to cover sin by concealing it.
2. God covers sin by forgiveness.
  - a. For the alien sinner that means by faith in and obedience to the gospel, Rom.1:14-17; 3:20-27; Mk.16:15,16; Ac.2:36-38.
  - b. For the erring child of God that means repentance, confession and prayer, Ac.8:20-24; 1Jno.1:9.