

Blessed to Be a Blessing – March 27, 2011

Cover Up!

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13 NKJV

It began in the garden. It continues to this day. The well developed and often practiced art of “covering up”. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and found they were naked...a very uncomfortable realization. The cover up began then in earnest. First it was sewing together of fig leaves to make a covering...then it was the hiding when God was walking in the garden. “Adam, where are you”, God called out. Covering up was the answer! “I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked”, Adam replied.

God gives Adam every chance to come clean...to end the cover up, but he doesn't. “Have you eaten of the tree I commanded you not to eat”, asks God. Adam's defense is masterfully pathetic. It hasn't taken him long to invent new ways to cover his sin. Covering his own sin by deflecting the blame to God won't go very far. “The woman YOU gave me, she gave me of the tree and I ate,” Adam protests.

Maybe Eve will end the cover up as God turns His attention to her. She has quickly learned the skill of covering up too. “The serpent...he deceived me and I ate,” she says. Neither, Adam nor Eve comes clean about their own responsibility for sin, but they are more than willing to pin it on someone else. So, then comes the curse and the expulsion from the garden. Paradise lost--the result of sin and further sin: the failed cover up.

Sound familiar. We may not be charter members of the “fig leaf” society, but we are well practiced experts in the art of cover up. Denial of responsibility for our sin comes as the cursed inheritance from our first parents, but as they were unable to fool God, so also we find ourselves with same situation. Try as we might, we cannot escape the fact that we are naked before God in thought, word, and deed. He knows it all and will accept no excuse on our part. We cannot blame Him. We cannot blame

the devil. We cannot blame others. These smokescreens are bound to fail for the Lord has made it plain in His word that each one will bear his own sin. What then are we to do?

Our cover up doesn't work. God's cover up is the only true remedy for sin. When we confess our sinfulness, that is when we recognize the transparent nakedness of our sin before God, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness--for Jesus sake. Look what He did for Adam and Eve. He promises the Savior...then he sheds the blood of animals to make skins that are a proper covering for the fleshly nakedness of His children. Here we see signified that it will take the shedding of blood---the holy blood of Jesus---to make a proper covering for our sin. Don't wait! Cover up! Not with the twisted logic and excuses of the world, but with the blood of Jesus! Confess your sins before God and know the peace of having your sinfulness covered by the blood of the Lamb. There alone is the true prosperity---paradise found, the eternal life we have in Christ our Lord.

Pastor Jacobs

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