

Hidden Things

2 Corinthians 4:1-4 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; **2** But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **3** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Here in our passage we are told of some "HIDDEN THINGS" that need our attention.

"You know you are getting old when you can hide your own Easter eggs"

The text here is talking about harboring sin in you life.

NOTE: Hidden sin will always result in Hidden Gospel (vrs. 3

Hypocrisy

When the outside doesn't match the inside.

Everyone is interested in the outward.

Jesus put it in perspective:

Matthew 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

A+

Ills: Student focusing on Good Grades instead of learning.... If you will focus on learning the good grades will follow!

Are good grades important? YES. But is that the focus? No

**Is the outward important? YES! Is that the focus? NO!
If we will focus on the inward things he outward will take care of itself!**

**IS GOD INTERESTED IN THE OUTWARD? YES!
BUT HE IS MORE SO INTERESTED IN THE HIDDEN MAN!**

1 Peter 3:1-4 Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; **2** While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear. **3** Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; **4** But *let it be* the **hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

1. Hidden Sins

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

A. Easily Concealed

Joshua 7:19-21 And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide *it* not from me. **20** And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: **21** When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they *are* hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

You may hide it, but you will know its there!

Proverbs 14:10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

B. They'll be Revealed

Joshua 7:25-26 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. **26** And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

Adam/Eve
Saul/Sheep

Ananias/ Sapphira
David/Bathsheba

Mark 4:22-23 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. **23** If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

Numbers 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

2. HIDDEN SELFISHNESS

Mal 1:6-8 A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master: if then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour? and if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? **7** Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD *is* contemptible. **8** And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, *is it* not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, *is it* not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

Believe it or not; There are people who go to church for selfish motives!

3. HIDDEN STRENGTH

Not all hidden things are wrong.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

2Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

1. **God is Concerned with the Hidden Man**
2. **God can Cleanse the Hidden Man**
3. **God Can Change the Hidden Man**

CONCLUSION:

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.