

## COVERING SIN

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Sin Defined

1. **1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4**

*"Sin is lawlessness".*

2. **James 4:17**

Sin is also the failure to do right.

#### B. By covering we refer to an effort to conceal or to hide.

### I. DIVINE APPROVAL OF COVERING SIN

#### A. **Hebrews 8:12**

God's desire is to forget sin.

#### B. **Psalm 85:2; Romans 4:7-8**

God covers sin by forgiving it.

#### C. **James 5:19-20**

Man can participate in this process. When a Christian converts a sinner from the error in which he is engaged, that sinner's soul is saved, his sins being covered.

#### D. **Proverbs 10:12; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:8**

Only love will motivate us to convert the wayward from their error, so as to cover their sins.

#### E. **Acts 3:19**

It is possible that sin be "*blotted out*;" which is to say obscured, hidden, even obliterated. This is accomplished through repentance and conversion. The result is refreshment.

### II. DIVINE DISAPPROVAL OF COVERING SIN

Though God is happy to cover our sins for us when we repent of them, it is not ours to do. We must not conceal our own trespasses.

**A. Proverbs 28:13**

There is an attendant curse in attempting to do so. Instead, we should be quick to confess our sins.

**1. Psalm 32:3-5**

David "*kept silent*," attempting to hide his sin, but it caused him agony. Relief came only when he acknowledged his iniquity to God, who forgave it.

**2. 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:8-10**

Hiding our sins, pretending to be free from all blame, is nothing other than self-deception. Confession of our faults to God, however, results in quick forgiveness.

**B. Some instances in which man has attempted to cover sin.**

**1. Genesis 3:8, 12-13**

After partaking of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve vainly attempted to hide themselves from the presence of God, which is impossible (Psalm 139:7-12). As if that wasn't enough, they each tried to blame another for their own faults, further trying to hide their sins.

**2. Exodus 32:1-7, 22, 24**

Likewise, Aaron tried blaming the people of Israel when he had fashioned a golden calf for them to worship instead of the true and living God. Moreover, he then tried to cover his sin by suggesting that the idol just suddenly appeared out of the gold. As ridiculous as that is, do we think we're any cleverer when we try to cover our own sins?

**3. Joshua 7:1, 21, 25**

Achan hid his sin in the literal sense. He buried a treasure of "*the accursed things*" beneath his tent. Consequently, he and all that was his were destroyed.

4. **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:4-5; Philippians 1:15-16**

Some would preach Christ as a pretext for greed. They use the work as an opportunity to practice their chosen sins.

5. **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:15-16**

This isn't limited to preachers, though, for many practice religion just to cloak their vice. Some Christians try hiding their sins by attending the worship and Bible study, giving the appearance of piety, but never practice what they're taught in day-to-day living.

C. **Secrets revealed.**

1. **Mark 4:22**

There is no such thing as a perfect secret.

2. **Ecclesiastes 12:14**

All that is covered will eventually be judged.

**CONCLUSION**

Instead of covering your own sin, let God do it! He's much more qualified.