

Be Careful! The Lord is Watching You!

As children we played a game called "Hide and Seek". A few years of growth improved our skills at successfully hiding from the seeker. We also may have learned at an early age that parental discipline might be avoided or at least deferred if our "slips" in proper conduct went undetected. The step may not be too far to the conclusion that lawbreaking is only bad for those who get caught. Since it sometimes seems easy, even for the fainthearted, to conceal one's actions from the seeker, it may become a challenge to the bolder to see how much and how long discovery of sinful conduct is eluded.

However, Christianity is not a little game that may be played or quit at one's whim or fancy. It is a test of vital importance. It is to determine our fitness for eternal service to the Lord. And the Lord knows the when, where, and why of our participation. *"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."* (Hebrews 4:13 NASB) The Psalmist expressed it this way. *"If I say,*

Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night, Even the darkness is not dark to Thee, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to Thee." (Psalms 139:11-12 NASB)

WE CANNOT HIDE FROM GOD!

We all know that, do we not? Well, do we, or not? Sure, you say. Then why is it that so many of us when away from family, and brethren and in the company of strangers begin to act like people of the world instead of the people of God? Do we forget that He can still see and know? Or, do we think that we have eluded Him and we will not be called to account?

The airlines have managed to separate the smokers from the nonsmokers to a certain extent, but they continue to slop the alcohol drinkers right beside the "seven-uppers." Once after having seen and smelled this vexing scene for the umpteenth time, I wondered how many Christians would take advantage of an opportunity such as this to try their "wings." After all, you are with people you do not know. You have never seen them before and may never see them again. Who is to know or care? **GOD DOES!!** Peter wrote, *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you."* (1 Peter 5:6-7 NASB) Remember, it is an unalterable fact that, *"...we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."* (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Those who commit adultery clandestinely and those who steal, cheat, use profanity, and otherwise seek to evade or circumvent the guilt, consequence and punishment resulting from sin need to be continually cognizant of what Paul told Titus. *"This is a trustworthy statement: and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."* (Titus 3:8 NASB) As Jesus said to Peter, *"Keep watching and praying, that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."* (Mark 14:38 NASB) And did He not have Paul to write, *"Do not be overcome by evil, but*

overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21 NASB)

Dear Christian, do be careful, the Lord is watching, and He sees and knows all, all the time. And He loves us and wants us to do right. He is "*...not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*" (2 Peter 3:9 NASB)

Therefore if you are guilty of sin, quit it (repent) and seek forgiveness. If you have sinned against a person, petition his or her forgiveness. If you have sinned against the church, ask the church to forgive you. In any event pray for God's forgiveness. Remember all sin is against God. The time to obtain forgiveness is now. **TOMORROW NEVER COMES.**

CAB