

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

February 14, 2010 - Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“What Are We Unaware Of?”

(Text: Psalm 19:12; Proverbs 28:13)

Context: This psalm of David emphasizes the clarifying aspects of the Law of the LORD. It is “perfect” (v. 7), King David says. The Law of the LORD revives the soul, makes wise the simple, gives joy to the heart, and gives light to the eyes. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and certain. They warn God’s servants. David suggests here that God’s Law can help a believer to discern his own errors. The LORD’S Law is used in the sense, here, of being the entirety of God’s Word. David then pleads for God’s help in order to have a clean heart and motives. He states that no one can ‘discern his/her errors.’ He requests God’s forgiveness of even his own ‘hidden faults’ (sins that he is unaware of).

I. **Are People Aware Of All Of Their Sins, Faults, Trespasses, And Erring Against God’s Law?**

- A. Many see no need to be aware of all of their sins, faults, etc.
- B. Many compare themselves with others in order to offer themselves comfort.
- C. Yet, status before a holy God is not affected by our avoiding the subject of hidden faults.
 - 1. This approach does not eliminate ‘hidden faults.’ They still are there.
- D. Many operate with the thought that “what they do not know will not hurt them.” Is this wise?
- E. Because of original sin, all sorts of actual (specific) sins are committed and carried out by omission as well.
 - 1. A “Blind Spot” is created by original sin inside of the human being.
 - 2. Jesus noted this ‘blind spot’ when He said, “first take the log out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.’ (Mt. 7: 5).
- F. “Hidden-to-me-faults (sins) can impact my relationship with God and with others. (Driving a car with a “blind spot” can be dangerous. How about living with a blind spot?)
 - 1. I may not know why others are angry with me, but they still may remain angry and/or leave me to myself.
 - 2. I can have habitual sins (breaking of God’s Law) that I have done all of my life and are difficult to change. – Only God’s Word (Heb. 4:12-13) and Spirit can help you and me to see them and begin to correct them.

II. **God’s Redemption of Sinners Includes Forgiving Us Of Even Hidden Faults, Keeping Us From Willful Sins, And Enabling Us To Let Go Of Grudges. (God cleans us with a thorough and ongoing cleaning.)**

- A. God knows ‘knows our frame and knows that we are but dust.’ He knows how best to help us (Psalm 103:13-14). He has compassion on those who fear Him.
- B. Christ’s sacrifice on the cross covers even our ‘hidden faults.’ (Is. 1:18)
- C. The Holy Spirit does work inside of us to lead us to repentance and faith in Christ. *This needs to take place before we can forgive others with love.
- D. Repenting of sins (that we are aware of and unaware of) is a daily habit.
 - 1. Like breathing, we exhale our sins and inhale forgiveness from God.
- E. The Holy Spirit leads the believer to desire clean and holy thoughts (meditation) in his/her heart and mind and to desire words to proceed from his/her mouth that are pleasing to God. *Does the Spirit, then, lead us to forgive others? You bet!
- F. What an impact this can have in the midst of people with unholy hearts and lips.
 - 1. Some may ask you and me, “Why do you say that? Why do you think that?” Then, we can speak of Jesus and His love and forgiveness.