



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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Hiding God's Word In Our Heart

Jim Mickells | Lewisburg, Tennessee, USA

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You! (Ps 119:11).

The value of the word of God is undeniable. It directs us to the Father (Jer 10:23), lights the path of life (Ps 119:105) When received it will save our souls (Jam 1:21) and will set us free from the bondage of sin (Jn 8:32). When obeyed we can be sanctified unto the Lord (Jn 17:17). It is milk to the immature (1 Pet 2:2); it is solid food to the mature (Heb 5:12-14). It will strengthen the inward man (Acts 20:32) and provide comfort to those who are troubled (1 Thes 4:18). It sounds warnings to those living in sin (Rev 1:7), and all will be judged by it when life on earth is over (Jn 12:48, etc). Yet in our text one of the great benefits is the word's ability to help us in the prevention of sin.

Notice this comment by Matthew Poole in his commentary on this verse:

"I have not contented myself with bare hearing or reading thy word, but have received it in the love of it, have diligently pondered it, and laid it up in my mind and memory like a choice treasure, to be ready upon all occasions, to counsel, or comfort, or quicken, or caution me, as need requires; that by a diligent and affectionate consideration of thy precepts, and promises, and threatenings, I might be kept from sinful courses, against which these are the best antidote."

Let me suggest to you a few reasons why the word of God, when placed in our hearts, will prevent sin in our lives.

1. I can know what sin is when I read and study my Bible. Paul said,

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For

I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said,
“You shall not covet” (Rom 7:7).

If we know what is sinful, then we can avoid those things. As children, our parents instructed us on what was right and what was wrong. They knew what was best for us. Out of love and respect for them we followed their instruction. God is of much greater knowledge than our parents. He truly knows what is best for us. So, should we not out of love and respect for Him listen to His word, understanding that He knows what is best for us?

2. I can know the consequences of sin. In Paul’s letter to those at Rome, he said,
“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 6:23).

Someone has said that sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you are willing to pay. You can look at the example of King David and the sin he committed with Bathsheba and see the truth in that statement. What higher price could be paid for the pleasures of sin than one’s soul? Knowing the wages sin pays should motivate us to avoid such at all cost.

3. I can also know how my sins affect others. Once again look in the book of Romans at something the apostle Paul said,

“You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For ‘the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,’ as it is written” (Rom 2:23-24).

David’s sin with Bathsheba illustrates this point so well. Uriah is killed, enemies blaspheme the Lord, the child dies, sword would never depart from his house, God would raise up adversity against the king from his own house, wives be given to his neighbor (his own son), etc. The choices I make can have a devastating effect on those around me, especially those whom I love. Knowing this why would I want to sin?

4. I can know the blessings of living a righteous life. When Joshua was selected by God to replace Moses he was told:

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Josh 1:8).

True prosperity involves more than just material possessions. Remember the question Jesus asked,

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
(Mt 16:26).

The Bible is filled with passages which assures us if we have conquered sin through Christ, eternal life is awaiting us (2 Tim 4:6-8; Rev 22:14).

The Psalmist says of the words of God,

“More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Ps 19:10).

May we hide them in our hearts to help prevent sin in our lives.

Love Never Fails

By Edwin Crozier

1 Corinthians 13.

“How do you know when it’s love?” Sammy Hagar questioned. “It’s just something that lasts forever,” he answered himself. And a generation of teens, even Christians, said, “Oh yeah, that is so right.” After all, Paul himself says by inspiration that “Love never fails.” The only problem is Paul did not mean if you have real love it will never die. Paul meant that unlike miraculous gifts of the Spirit such as prophecy, healing, and tongue speaking, love would always be necessary. Paul’s point was not that if you have real love you’ll always have it. His point was real love very much can die and can be abandoned, but we always need it and must always pursue it. How do you actually know when it is love? When it is patient, kind, content, humble, courteous, selfless, sacrificing, gentle, forgiving, and governed by truth. At least, that is Paul’s actual answer to the question and I believe he had the Spirit of God.

A Word for Our Kids

Hey kids, please don’t get caught up in the world’s definition of love, especially as they emphasize romantic love. Romance is great in its place in submission and support of real love. Real love, even for a spouse, is not about the good feelings in the pit of your stomach every time a particular person walks in the room (even though that feels really nice). Real love is about seeking what is best for that person even when it means sacrificing something for yourself. So, look forward to the day when you meet a person who gives you those pit of the stomach feelings, but then remember to actually love that person the way God says.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Tom and Kate are in CO and plan to return this week
- Chad will be traveling to CO Monday, planning to return this week
- David and Catherine will be traveling to GA this week, Then overseas for a couple of weeks
- Michelle, Brenda's Daughter has Bell's Palsy and is undergoing treatments for it.
- Kass' Grandmother has been diagnosed with Lung Cancer.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Monday night Bible class at Chad and Kass' on evangelism will be postponed till next week.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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