

RELIGION

ALTERNATIVES

Concealment - Exposure Of Evil Works

BY MARGARET ISAACS

Since the beginning of recorded events in the history of mankind; he has attempted to hide or deny his short-comings, bad judgement, greed, covetousness, selfishness, etc.; but his "sins" have always been exposed for all to see. The length of time it takes for sins to be exposed is not defined, nor is the degree of punishment or retribution; but it is promised by God, that every sin has its punishment, which will be exacted against the sinner. Since all have sinned, and since the penalty for sin is death; it is only through the love of God that forgiveness comes and only through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that the wages of sin is paid in full, for all who believe in God, the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God, the Comforter and consciousness of mankind.

In Gen. 3:8 we find Adam and Eve hiding from God; well aware that they had sinned against him. By this same knowledge and reasoning, we, who

believe in God, should suspect as not being truthful nor trustworthy, any person(s) who acts under cover of darkness. Job 24:16. Suspect any Agency whose staff will not divulge its programs, actions, goals and guidelines openly. Isaiah 29:15 "Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say "Who sees us"? And "Who knows us."? Proverbs 28:13 says that he that covereth his sins shall not prosper. Isaiah 30:1 (speaking of God-followers) "Woe to a rebellious people that take counsel, but not my counsel, and cover their sins, but not with my Spirit. They do this that they may add sin upon sin".

The works of darkness can be concealed for a little while; but the light will soon shine brightly on these works and careers will be ruined and families will dissolve and freedoms will vanish, for there is a price to pay for all secret hidden sins done in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.

Everyone that evil seeks to do it in the dark, especially secret from the person(s) they seek to hurt and harm. Secret meetings to plan against chosen servants of God; to plan their evil activities with hearts that device wicked imaginations, feel that be swift in running to mischief. (Prov. 6:18). Their thoughts are thoughts of wickedness, wasting and destruction are in their paths". The Godly person must not yield or be drawn in by the sweetness of their speech; nor their ability to make unreasonable acts appear reasonable. God's servants must be sober and vigilant lest we fall into their traps; for they cannot carry out their evil deeds, unless they have the support of others more righteous than they, whom they can lead astray. Take a hand look at the motives of those who stir up strife, especially when it is directed against a man called of God or against a people of God. Are these motives Godly or selfish, righteous or unrighteous? Beware! **When the children of God**

are persecuted, God, himself, meters out the punishment to those who slander and persecute the righteous. Consider Saul/Paul of Tarsus, and his persecution of the Church. Paul's life was changed and he attempted to atone for former sins; but he suffered a thorn in his side even unto death, for his persecution of God's Church. Those that persecute the Church and/or the man God has called, do so not for good, but for selfish gain; for power over others and they justify their actions under the law. They are busybodies! They walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies". (2 Tim. 3:11) They separate the people with evil whisperings, with slander and talebearing. They are like unto poisonous serpents in the bosom of the Church; and there are those among you will worship and follow these serpents for a little while, but the light of God will shine on their evil activities and their fall will be great. "The heavens will reveal his/her in-

iquity; and the earth shall rise up against him/her. Job 20:27". For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Luke 12:2. Like the sin of Cain, it may be done in secret. Like the sin of Sampson, it may be prompted by others reluctantly (Judges 16:16-17). Like the sin of Ahab, it may be prompted by others (1 Kings 21:7, 20). Like the sin of Herod, it may be the result of a foolish promise (Matt. 14:6-10). Like the sin of Pilate, it may be done to please the public (MK. 15:15). And like the sin of the Jews, it may be done in ignorance, Luke 23:34. And God Says: "They consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness; Now their doings have beset them about; they are before my face" Hosea 7:2). 2 Peter 2:1, "There are false prophets among you even as there are denying the Lord, and shall bring upon themselves swift destruction. We, as children of God, Almighty,

are to recognize the fruits of darkness; (ie) the denial of sin; the secret hidden meetings and plans; the conscience filled with dead works, the weak conscience; the conscience offensive to man; the accusing of, or excusing of, one another; which shows whose law is written in their hearts. The foolishness of man pervereth his ways. And we, as children of God," are to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather to reprove them (Eph. 5:11). For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. Ecclesiastes 12:14. For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Luke 12:2 For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be made known. We, the follower of Christ, are admonished to "be sober, be vigilant; because our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8.

Youth Pilgrimage Marks the 150th Anniversary of the Archdiocese

The youth of the Archdiocese of Portland will mark the 150th anniversary of the archdiocese by participating in a Sesquicentennial Youth Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage will begin at St. John the Apostle Parish in Oregon City on June 20, and conclude at the archdiocesan Sesquicentennial Mass on Wednesday, July 24 at the Chiles Center at the University of Portland. Each parish has an assigned route, and each is planning their own activities around this event. Parish programs may include a Mass, spiritual exercises, educational activities, historical reflections and community celebrations.

Youth, young adults and adults will participate in a relay which includes the passing of a cross from parish to parish up and down the archdiocese. The principal participants will be youth ages 13 to 18 years of age. The Pilgrimage will be a walk of faith and an opportunity for participating youth to take part in this historical anniversary celebration. Its purpose is to increase awareness

among the youth of their spiritual history, to enhance fellowship and to provide spiritual benefit to participating youth through prayer, sacrifice and public witness.

A Sesquicentennial Youth Pilgrimage booklet of songs and prayers has been prepared for each participant. The booklet has hymns and prayers in English and Spanish, and includes a suggested prayer service to be celebrated when the cross arrives at the parish church, as well as songs and prayers to use in the procession from one parish to the next. Each parish will also receive a booklet for prayers and petitions "Together We Pray". This booklet will provide space for each parish to include its prayers for the sesquicentennial. "Together We Pray" also includes vignettes of archdiocesan history taken from Historical Sketches of the Catholic Church in Oregon," written by our first Archbishop, Francis Norbert Blanchet.

Each participating parish will be designing a banner for the pilgrim-

age, which will be carried along the parish's pilgrimage route and carried at the Sesquicentennial Mass on July 24. Photographs from each stop on the trip will be collected for a memorial booklet to be published later recounting the story and participation during this pilgrimage. The cross being used in the pilgrimage was provided by St. Mary's Cathedral. It will be housed each night at a parish along the route. For stretches of the route which are too distant to walk, or unable to be walked for safety concerns, the pilgrimage cross will be traversed by a van donated for this pilgrimage by Lamphere's of Beaverton.

The Youth Pilgrimage route began at St. John the Apostle parish in Oregon City on June 20. The archdiocese was founded as the Archdiocese of Oregon City in 1846. The pilgrimage cross has been through the Tualatin Valley, to Astoria, to Brookings, to Medford and up the Willamette Valley. It reaches Portland are parishes on Friday, July 19.

Extend Support of Church-burning victims

The Global Village Web site invites members of the world community, horrified and angered by the recent burning of Southern churches serving the black community, to send messages via the Internet to the members of the congregations whose churches have been damaged and destroyed by arson.

The Global Village can be accessed at <http://www.cyberspace-pr.com/global-village.html>. Messages will be posted and forwarded to the respective congregations.

"I believe that as citizens we must speak out against the criminals who destroy sanctuaries," asserted Antonia Inman, creator of the Website. "Thirty churches have been burnt over the past 18 months. As I watched the headlines describe each act of arson, I wanted to voice my concern for these congregations and about the cruelty spawned by racism.

"However, I felt it was important that impacted communities know that many are aware of and concerned about what has happened. I hope The Global Village site will encourage others to

write and send their own messages of hope, condolence and prayer."

Cyberspace Public Relations, of Camarillo, developed The Global Village in 1995 to help small charities with huge accomplishments gain an international presence. At the site, Web surfers can not only protest the burnings, but also learn more about open adoption, infertility, marrow donation, sending letters to troops stationed in Bosnia, and how to sponsor or adopt starving children from Africa.

Scientology Libel Suit Vs. Time Warner Dismissed

A federal judge Tuesday dismissed a libel suit brought by the Church of Scientology International against Time Warner Inc. over a 1992 Time magazine piece that was highly critical of the church.

U.S. District Judge Peter Leisure said no reasonable jury would find actual malice in the 10-page article entitled "Scientology: The Cult of Greed." The Los Angeles-based church alleged that statements made in the 7,500 word piece were false and defamatory.

Last year the court dismissed most of the

case but heard new arguments on one remaining issue.

The article alleged that Scientology, rather than being a bonafide religion, is organized for the purpose of making money by legitimate and illegitimate means. The article detailed alleged schemes used by the church to increase its revenues. It also criticized the church on other subjects, including the validity of its belief system, the harmfulness of its methods of counseling and its tactics of combatting critics.

"These statements were either not challenged by plaintiff or were held to be nonactionable by the Court on the grounds that no reasonable jury could find that they were published with actual malice," the judge wrote.

The remaining issue in the case involved the statement that one source of the church's funds is "the notorious, self-regulated stock exchange in Vancouver, B.C., often called the scam capital of the world." Leisure said he found that the statement was not made with actual malice and was not libelous.

The Church of Scientology said in a statement that it would appeal the ruling. Rev. Heber Jentzsch said the judge made no findings in his opinion that the statements made in the Time article were true.

"The court's silence about falsity is very eloquent. Time shouldn't find comfort in a dubious legal proposition that would shield lies behind bias," he said.

Iran Cleric Urges Holy War On Israel

A senior Iranian cleric on Friday denounced Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "madman" and urged for Holy War against the Jewish state.

"The enemy will not hold back even if we do... You see how this madman who has recently become prime minister in Israel thinks and what he is doing," Ayatollah Ahmad

Jannati said in a mass prayer sermon broadcast on state-run Tehran radio.

"We should not forget the Jihad (Holy War) in God's way. And God is with us and will help us," Jannati, a member of the powerful Guardian Council, told worshippers who responded by chanting "Death to Israel" and "Death to America."

In a speech to the United States Congress on Wednesday, Netanyahu singled out Iran as the main danger in the Middle East, saying Tehran sought to develop nuclear arms. Tehran rejected the charges, saying its nuclear sites, unlike Israel's, were open to international inspection.

"Today they are making Iran an issue, because Iran is the great power

that is standing up to them... But if they stop being concerned about Iran... they will target other (Muslim) states which they easily can devour," Jannati warned.

Iran says Israel has no right to exist and strongly opposes the Middle East peace process which it rejects as a sell-out of Palestinian rights.

British Archbishop Attacks Decline In Morals

The Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglican/Episcopalian church and its 70 million members worldwide, spoke out Friday against a decline in morals, saying religion had been reduced to a hobby in Britain.

Dr. George Carey, said morality seemed to have become a case of personal choice. "It's a do-it-yourself approach. We've lost a sense of right and wrong," he told BBC radio. He added that society would perish unless the difference between right and wrong was taught.

"What I want to do is to start a

debate which looks at the whole of morality and how we can form children to grow up as moral and responsible agents in society."

Carey later delivered a keynote speech in the House of Lords, the upper chamber of Britain's Parliament, on society's moral and spiritual well-being in which he complained that God was "being banished to the realm of the private hobby."

Church attendance in Britain has fallen steadily since the turn of the century and Carey said many people now found it embarrassing to talk about religion or morality in public.

A poll published by the Daily Telegraph newspaper Friday suggested only one in five people believed Britain had a common set of moral standards and nearly 75 percent thought too much moral choice was left to individuals.

Carey called for a partnership between parents and schools as well as between the churches and the government.

"It would be a failure if our schools were to produce people with the right skills and aptitudes to take on our

economic competitors, but who cannot string two sentences together about the meaning and purpose of life or who have no idea what it means to be a good citizen and a moral person."

Writing in the Telegraph newspaper, Carey said, "Successful business survives on the invisible currency of trust, integrity and responsibility. Without honesty and faithfulness, business degenerates into chaotic gangsterism."

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