**Hiding from God**

*Genesis 3:8-10*

**Introduction**

1. Adam and Eve rebelled against the Lord and ate of the forbidden tree.
   1. Their sin was followed by guilt.
   2. In their guilt, they hid from God – **Genesis 3:8-10**
2. Jonah was another character who sought to hide from God – **Jonah 1:1-3** – out of resistance to God’s will. (I.e. instead of guilt.)
3. In attempting to hide from God men show they think that God is like them – **Psalm 50:21**
4. However, God is not like men. For one, He is spirit **(John 4:24**) – with a comprehension and acceptance of this truth comes the realization of the foolishness of thinking one can hide from God.
5. It is foolish to hide from God. It is impossible, thus vain, to try to hide from God. Hiding from God is counterproductive. God wants us to do the opposite of hiding from Him.
6. You Cannot Hide from God
7. God is omniscient and omnipresent – **Psalm 139:1-12** (a matter of comfort to the Psalmist for spiritual direction – **vv. 23-24**)
   1. Not only can one not hide himself from the Lord, but he can’t hide his THOUGHTS from Him.
8. God is not limited by distance, or any hiding place – **Jeremiah 23:23-24** – He is always aware of what is going on.
9. When men tried to hide from God, they were found shortly after:
   1. Adam and Eve – **Genesis 3:9-10** – God knew where they were when He asked.
   2. Jonah – **Jonah 1:4, 12, 17; 2:10; 3:1-3** – God sent the tempest, the fish, and then sent Jonah to Nineveh.
   3. Still today, some think they can hide from God, but regardless of their perceived success God’s word will pierce right through them in the end, and they will be laid bare before Him – **Hebrews 4:12-13**
10. Some Vainly Seek to Hide from God
11. It is interesting that even some who see the folly and vanity in attempting to hide from God are guilty of doing that very thing.
    1. After coming to an understanding of God’s nature and witnessing the stories of old concerning those who failed to hide from God one may be inclined to think they would never be guilty of such a thing.
    2. However, while one may not physically flee from the presence of the Lord, or cover themselves with some obstacle, men still try to hide from God in various ways, and they do it in vain.
12. In Ignorance
    1. The word of God requires change – **2 Timothy 3:16-17** (reproof, correction)
       1. Some do not want to change, although they know God requires it.
       2. They hide in ignorance, not seeking to know the Lord’s will, wrongly assuming that ignorance will be excused by God.
    2. God’s teaching on ignorance:
       1. **Acts 17:30-31** – God requires repentance from matters done in ignorance – judgment is coming.
       2. **Romans 10:2-3** – Zeal without knowledge (ignorant zeal) is destructive.
          1. **Hosea 4:6** – destroyed for a lack of knowledge.
       3. Sins committed in ignorance are still sins, and carry guilt:
          1. **Acts 3:13-19** – they crucified Christ in ignorance (concerning His nature) and were called to repentance.
          2. **Leviticus 4:13-14; 5:17-19** – sins committed in ignorance could not be atoned for without coming to the knowledge of the sin, but the guilt was always present.
    3. Some seem to think that ignorance is a mitigating factor. Therefore, when they aren’t sure of something, they are not quick to investigate to find conviction in the truth.
       1. They believe God will let it slide if they just don’t know.
       2. In a sermon, study, or being confronted by another they have something pointed out to them they did not know before – a sin, or responsibility.
       3. They might reply – “I see what you’re saying, but I need to study it out for myself first.”
          1. Perhaps they intend to do so but delay the study instead of making haste.
          2. Perhaps they never intended to do so but continue in ignorance.
          3. Regardless, the design of preaching/teaching God’s word is to bring a knowledge of sin/truth – **2 Timothy 4:2** – WHILE YOU MAY NEED TO FURTHER YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WHEN THE TRUTH IS PREACHED CLEARLY IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO CHANGE ACTIONS (of the honest heart).
          4. EX: Modesty, social drinking, dancing – and yet they continue to do what they have always done, thinking their lack of depth of knowledge is mitigating – THEY ATTEMPT TO HIDE FROM GOD.
       4. The Bereans did not delay **– Acts 17:11**
       5. God requires diligence and understanding – **2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 5:17** (NOTE: it would be unwise to delay your investigation)
13. In Error
    1. Some do not believe in or respect the inspiration of the scriptures – **2 Timothy 3:16**
    2. This is shown by their approach to twisting the scriptures to validate their practices – **Jude 4** – turn grace of God to lewdness. (**cf. Romans 6:1**)
       1. **2 Peter 2:18-19** – false teachers promising liberty – i.e. their teaching suggested sin was inconsequential (incipient Gnosticism).
    3. They do not love the truth, but want to hear teaching which allows their actions – **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Jeremiah 5:31**
    4. Such twisting of scripture is not a way around strict adherence to God’s law. It is a practice of destruction – **2 Peter 3:16**
    5. Examples:
       1. Hide from God regarding any sin in Romans 14 – **Romans 14:1, 4** (including sin, instead of recognizing the passage to speak of liberties)
       2. Hide from unlawful divorce with the Pauline privilege – **1 Corinthians 7:10-15**
          1. **(vv. 10-11)** – divorce not permitted. Remarriage after divorce not permitted.
          2. **(vv. 12-14)** – don’t divorce.
          3. **(v. 15)** – if unbeliever leaves, not under bondage.
             1. Not bound to them, and can therefore remarry?
             2. Context – **1 Corinthians 7:26** – present distress.
             3. Unbeliever unwilling to be with the believer because of added difficulty of persecution.
             4. Believer is not obligated to force them to stay. HOWEVER, MUST REMAIN UNMARRIED – **(v. 11)**
          4. **Additional error on MDR – mental divorce, divorce for the sake of the kingdom, unbeliever in unlawful marriage becoming a believer can remain, race to the courthouse.**
          5. **Simple law – Matthew 19:3-10**
       3. Continual cleansing, and sinful nature of man – **1 John 1:7**
          1. Man is inherently sinful, therefore cannot help but sin always?
          2. However, by walking in the light, the blood of Christ cleanses even as one sins?
          3. Context – **1 John 1:8-10; 2:1-2; 3:7-9** – for sin to be cleansed it must be confessed and repented of. MAY NOT SIN. Children of God don’t sin.
    6. Just because one finds an error which justifies their sin does not mean they will escape or be hidden from God’s wrath.
14. Instead, We Should Hide Ourselves in God
15. Hiding from God
    1. Some hide for fear – **Hebrews 10:31**
    2. Some hide due to obstinacy – **Matthew 13:14-15**
    3. ALL HIDE IN VAIN – God does not want us to hide.
16. God Wants Us to Hide IN Him, Not FROM Him
    1. David’s sin took a toll on him – **Psalm 32:3-4**
       1. He did not hide from God, but confessed – **(v. 5)**
       2. God’s forgiveness is sweet – **(vv. 1-2)**
       3. God offers Himself as a hiding place – **(vv. 6-7)**
          1. Hidden from sin, the evil one, and destruction.
    2. God does not want us to perish – **1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9** – BUT WE MUST COME TO HIM, NOT HIDE FROM HIM IN ORDER TO AVOID DESTRUCTION, AND RECEIVE SALVATION!
    3. Humble yourself in His sight and He will lift you up, not strike you down – **James 4:7-10**
       1. **Psalm 32:6** – in a time God may be found.
       2. **Philippians 2:9-11** – in the end, every knee will bow, but by then it will be too late.

**Conclusion**

1. As foolish as hiding from God may seem, several have attempted to do so throughout history, and many still do today.
2. We cannot hide from God in any way, and we must not try.