

ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE

By Keith Greer

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” {Genesis 3:8} Adam and Eve’s attempt to hide from God because of their sin was futile and impossible. People try to **HIDE** from God because of:

Sinful guilt. *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”* {John 3:19-21} People run away and hide because their conduct causes them to feel shame and guilt. Adam and Eve avoided facing God because they knew they had transgressed His will. Today, we do much the same thing.

Thinking that God is like us. *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* {2 Peter 3:9} Many people try to take God out of heaven and make Him into a man. It cannot be done. He doesn’t think like us, reason like us, or seek to justify His actions; nor does He need to. Please read Isaiah 55:8-11. Try to clearly understand that rationalizing a thing in our own minds does not mean that God will see it the same way!

Distasteful responsibilities. *“...Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm.”* {Jonah 4:2} Jonah did not want God to spare Nineveh; he wanted Him to destroy the entire city! The decision wasn’t up to Jonah. Sometimes, we would rather not obey some of God’s commands—love and pray for your enemies. Right! {Matthew 5:44,45; Romans 12:17-21} We need to remember that God has His reasons for wanting things done in a certain way. We have but to trust and obey!

Misunderstandings. *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* {Ephesians 5:15-17} We often misunderstand God’s reasons for doing things the way He does; but we must have confidence that He knows what He is doing and is wiser than us. Peter thought He understood that Gentiles who obeyed were on the same level as the Jews who obeyed. {Acts 9:1ff; 10:34,35} But Paul found it necessary to confront Peter when his actions showed that he “misunderstood his duty.” {Galatians 2:11-14} Those who read God’s clear instructions can understand.

Fear. *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”* {1 John 4:18} Why should we fear if we are trusting God, following His commands, have been bought and paid for by the Lamb’s blood, and know God cannot lie about the things He’s promised us. True, we will one day die and cease to live on this earth. But do we need to fear death? Only if we are unprepared to meet the Lord in judgment do we have reason to fear.

The Hebrew writer said, “*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*” {Hebrews 4:13} We can't avoid the eyes of an all-seeing, all-knowing God. What does he see in you dear reader? ***