

“We Can Be Sure of It!”

Proverbs 5:22; 13:15

Intro. – Not much is certain these days. All about us we see signs of abounding uncertainties. Nevertheless, in the midst of these fear filled days, there arises a granite isle of certainty.

This morning like to look at something that is tremendously important and absolutely certain. Our text will develop this for us

Numbers 32:23 summarizes this even further: “...*be sure your sin will find you out.*”

Everyday we see about us illustrations of just how sure a matter this really is.

Illus. – 1984 in Wigan, England, there was an accident. It involved a motorbike rider who hit a pedestrian. The cyclist didn’t stop after hitting the pedestrian. It was an obvious case of “hit-and-run.” The injured pedestrian was sent to the Wigan Infirmary for treatment. The motorcyclist ran his dented bike up a back street, hid it and left on foot. Crossing the same street where he had just hit the pedestrian, the cyclist, now on foot, was hit by a passing car. He too ended up in Wigan Infirmary and guess who his roommate was?!

You see, our sins are a lot like a new Pain Clinic in Bricktown, New Jersey. This clinic has a sign out front that reads as follows: “Acupuncture in the rear.” i.e. our sins will get us in the end!

For all the doubtful things of this world, this is for sure – no one, absolutely no one will escape their own sins! Now, does this mean we ought to prepare for the worst? Does this mean we ought to take a lackadaisical approach to life? What are we to learn from the certainty that our sins will find us out?

Purpose: to revisit the seriousness of sin in our lives

I WAYS Our Sins Will Find Us Out

A. Through Our Civil Laws

- Illus. – yrs ago a millionaire bootlegger was serving a long prison term when a friend visited. The bootlegger was sitting, crossed legged with a big needle, ball of twine and a large piece of burlap. “Hello,” said the friend. “Sewing?” “No,” replied the prisoner, “I’m reaping.”
- 1. Though imperfect, the execution of civil laws amaze us as to how the law sooner or later catches up with those who break it.
 - Illus. – stop sign in Rushville, IN... ticket... Went before the Judge to plead my case... I did have the bad habit of doing a 7-Up stop (the pause that refreshes)...
- 2. May avoid the law for days/weeks/yrs... but sooner or later lawbreakers will meet up with the law
- 3. The execution of human laws often will expose our sins... There are many sins; however, that are not found out in or through the laws of the land, BUT, there’re other means of our sins finding us!

B. Through Our Bodies

1. Often when we fail to pay the penalty for our sins before human courts, we pay for our sins in the court of physical retribution.
2. There are some sins that come with “built in dangers”:
 - a. venereal diseases (aids, herpes etc.) all of which would be nonexistent if not for promiscuity...
 - b. certain other sins such a drinking alcohol &/or reckless driving:
 - Illus. – New Orleans, LS August of 1980 a man totally intoxicated was driving 105 mph when a tire blew. Car crashed and the man was killed. Family sued Ford Motor Company for “negligence.” The court found Ford guilty because they should have warned the man not to drive that fast. \$72 million was tagged onto the prices of new Ford cars.
 - c. other sins: anger, fear, worry, literally poison our bodies and minds causing health issues...
3. Sins will find us out physically and even deadly:
 - Illus. – “The Pipe Press” had a classified ad: “To whom it may concern: The hog stolen from my farm last week was being treated for pneumonia. It had just received 200 grams of arsenic. Please eat the meat, but don’t feed it to your kids.”
4. “Truly, the young person that sins is robbing an old person who’ll someday wear his body.”

C. Through Our Character

1. Every sin for which we are guilty, our character suffers a terrible hit.
2. Every sin breeds “moral ulcers”; thus, a festering body is more tolerable than festering character.
 - Illus. – when we wrong someone in wages or service, we suffer immeasurably more in what we become than in what the cheated person(s) has lost!
3. What we presently are IS important... BUT, what we are becoming is far more important...
4. Our sins will always find us out in our character – i.e. what we are becoming!

D. Through Our Conscience

1. We may be able to hide our sin from those about us, but we can't hide it from God or ourselves...
2. Many criminals are caught or give selves up simply because can't stand gnawing conscience.
3. What about the idea: “I'll sin, repent and everything will be all right” Romans 6:1-2 “*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*”
 - a. conscience can't be easily quieted – Illus. – Mary J. and her constant struggle...
 - b. even with guilt of sin removed, scars remain – you can pull a nail out of a board, but you still have the nail hole...
4. How many of us still struggle with sin in our past? Our sins find us out in our consciences.

II UNFORGIVEN Sins Will Find Us Out

A. Life Seems So Unfair

1. How many times does it *seem* unchristian peoples' sins do NOT find them out?
 - a. some amass fortunes by cheating/defrauding, while the honest workers barely get by...
 - b. many make fun of God and His Word...; yet, they seem to “prosper” while God's people seem to struggle...
2. It appears that sin really does triumph... BUT does it really?
3. Psalmist questioned this very thing in Psalm 73:
 - a. vv 2,3,5,13,14
 - b. vv 16-19
 - c. he was jealous until he found out the end of the wicked...

B. Eternity Seems So Far Off

1. Ecclesiastes 8:11 “*Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given full to do evil.*”
2. Because payment for sin is down the road, many simply go ahead and sin – pay later...
 - Illus. – sound familiar? Advertisement scheme: “No payment till 2017!...” point is: payment eventually comes!
3. Punishment for sin will also come and *full payment will be required*:
 - a. Proverbs 15:3 “*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.*”
 - b. Hosea 7:2 “*And they do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness.*”
 - c. Ecclesiastes 12:14 “*Because God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether good or evil.*”
 - d. Galatians 6:7 “*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*”
 - e. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 “*...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.*”

In judgment, all accounts will be settled and paid in full. There will be no escape. Because of this, be sure your sins will find you out especially in eternity.

Conclusion: The principle of our text is absolutely sure. History confirms it daily. One cannot sin and escape its penalty on one's own power, wisdom or strength. Sin will find you out in the execution of human laws, in your body, your character, your conscience and if not here, be sure of this, all unforgiven sins will find you out in eternity.

Then is there no hope? Indeed there is, IF we flee to Jesus. It may not be possible to escape the natural consequences of our sins (e.g. bad habits...) BUT, we can, no we MUST escape sins eternal consequences! How can we do this? Apart from Christ we can do nothing!

“Jesus Paid it All!”

Jesus paid it all,

All to Him I owe.

Sin had left a crimson stain,

He washed it white a snow!

We are Saved BY Grace, THROUGH Faith, AT Baptism, FOR Good Works!

We can be sure of it, brethren and friend. Sin will find us out... Jesus Paid It All!!