

Sin is Stealth Mode

Hebrews 4:13

Nutshell: God knows us completely. Why do we keep hiding?

I. Context: Christ as our Sabbath.

II. Text

Heb 4:13 and there is no created *entity* unrevealed before His face; but all things *are* naked and laid open to His eyes, *the One* with whom *is* our account [*logos*, word].

Literal Standard Version with modifications

The next four outline items, III. - VI., are based on the 4 uses of Scripture listed in 2 Tim 3:16 AND the 3 depictions of preaching in 2 Tim 4:2.

III. Teaching

A. Outline of Hebrews

I. Christ's person and work better than the angels, 1:1 - 2:18

II. Christ's stewardship better than Moses', 3:1-6

III. Christ's rest better than Joshua's, 3:7 - 4:13

◆ IV. Christ's priesthood better than Aaron's, 4:14- 10:18

V. Admonitions based on Christ's excellence, 10:19 - 13:25

B. Paul wrote an inspired book to a Jewish audience; 2 Pet 3:15-16; 1 Pet 1:1; 2 Pet 3:1. Hebrews is the only possibility.

C. Summary paraphrase of the book so far:

Christ's Exaltation: FROM God and AS God

1. Christ is from God the Father (1:1-2) *and* is God Himself (1:8).
2. He purged our sins and assumed a **settled** position of authority beside the Father (1:3).
3. His being and authority are greater than angels' in every way, as Scriptures testify (1:4-14).
4. His **spoken** authority is therefore binding (2:1-4)

Christ's Exaltation: AS Man and FOR Man

5. God promised man dominion over all, according to the prophecy of PSALM 8, even over angels, (2:2-8a),

- a. but we forfeited that dominion by sin (2:8b)
- b. Jesus *became* man, briefly lower than the angels, to be the fulfillment of man's promised dominion (2:9, 16)
- 6. But the Father's plan was not for Christ *alone* to have dominion, but to give a people dominion *with* Him (2:9-13)
- 7. The Father sent Christ to suffer, paying for the sins of the elect, in order to **bond** them with Christ (2:9-13),
 - a. for them (not for angels) to enjoy freedom from Satan's fear-of-death regime (2:14-17)
 - b. *and* for Him to come to them in every test (2:18).

Christ's Exaltation: As Inheritance RECEIVER and GIVER

- 8. Christ was *builder* of the 'house' in which Moses was but a *servant*. We must "think hard" about this Jesus. (3:1-6)
- 9. And just as Moses' generation failed to enjoy the end they set off for, so *we might* fail to join to Christ (having *appeared* to join Him) (3:7-19), PSALM 95
- 10. The Promised Land was a type of God's 7th Day Rest (4:1-8), which was itself was a type/symbol of **Salvation**:
 - a. therefore, an ending of human sufficiency/goodness
 - b. and *always* **open** to those believing, including now
- 11. Christ fulfills the Sabbath as a *Sabbatismos* (1x word)-
an official resting in Christ for salvation, 4:9
- 12. 4:10, Christ rested from His redemptive work as the Father rested from His work of **creation**
- 13. 4:11 exhorts **us** into Christ's redemptive rest
- 14. 4:12 then returns to the "Word of God," what the Wilderness (W.Gen.) refused to hear, Heb 4:2; 3:7 ff
 - a. The Word operates by its own power to lay us open before God
 - b. The W.Gen's sin was therefore a brazen refusal of God, since He had penetrated their deepest being by His Word

Kid-speak: Last time what did we say the Bible is like? A sword that cuts open our hearts so we can see what God sees inside us.

- c. Sin is always a deflection of God, a hiding
- 15. Today, Paul continues to explain the penetrating, exposing nature of Scriptures

- B. 4:13, The end result of the Word's penetrating power? The same result as all creation under the gaze of its omniscient Maker and Sustainer: we are exposed before Him.
1. It's just that those under the sound of God's voice seem to be able to ignore Him
 2. Paul is saying no- turning a deaf ear to God is not really *ignoring* Him, it's *rejecting* Him
 - a. Or you might say it's an *intentional* ignoring
 - b. Easy test: someone who says they're not intentionally ignoring God- do they desire/are seeking compliance with His Word?
 - c. The first rationale as an answer ("Well, no Christians are really in compliance either") settles the matter: They are willingly refusing God's testimony.
 - d. (Otherwise, why would they seek a cover for it?)

Kid-speak: How much can God see? Everything about everything!

- C. "And there is no created entity unrevealed before His face."
1. This actually expands on the previous statement
 - a. There, the Word opened us up stem to stern
 - b. Now we see that the Word's particular penetration is simply part of God **all**-extensive gaze in **every** entity and aspect of creation
 2. There are only two classes of beings in the universe: created and uncreated; that is, all God made on the one hand, and God their maker on the other
 3. When we go into **STEALTH MODE**, we tacitly affirm ourselves as somehow akin to the Uncreated One
 - a. Since God can see all He made to its depths, going into stealth mode is saying that we can successfully *deflect* that inspection
 - b. (Supposedly) deflecting an all-seeing eye takes a power equal to that eye
 4. Sin is always 'stealth mode'
 - a. Most often, it is the thought that we have escaped God's gaze, Ps 94:7; 10:11; Isa 29:15; Ezek 8:12;
 - b. This may come in the form of imagining God's inattention, Zeph 1:12

- c. But it can also be open defiance of God, sinning, knowing full well He sees, Prov 11:21; 16:5.
 - i. This is still stealth in that it covers our *sense!*
 - ii. It makes us feel invulnerable before the Unconquerable. That is senseless: *nonsense*, in fact.

Kid-speak: What do all people try to do before God? Hide our sin or make excuses for it. Will that work? No, but we do it anyway.

D. “Unrevealed”

1. Meaning not laid out in its barest, truest, fullest colors
2. The “revealed” part of the word is simply “made to appear/ brought to light”
 - a. No created thing can resist God’s power to reveal it
 - b. And most of creation doesn’t resist. But sinners instinctively don’t want to be brought to light.
3. “Revealed” = me exactly as I am
 - a. Why would any wise creature oppose this?
 - b. But it is a state against which we all erect crazy-entailed obstacles
 - c. But to which the Christian should say, “Well, He only intends my good. It will be a frightful, shaming sight, but - please, show me.”
4. Doubtless, this is what Jesus meant about Nathanael, Jn 1:47: no “trickery” in him
 - a. He was that rare man who had come to invite *and cultivate* the process of God’s inspection
 - b. Without the cultivation part, he couldn’t have been without “trickery” within
 - c. Most of us have one or two instinctive dodges implicitly planned at any possible uncovering of our true selves
 - i. The only way out of this is just to chase yourself all the way down. Get out of dodges. (Oo, good one)
 - ii. That’s what Nathanael would have had to do
 - d. Peter had a pretty candid response: “Depart from me,” meaning, ‘I’m nowhere near ready for this’.

Kid-speak: Who in the Bible *didn’t* try to hide from God (besides Jesus)? Nathanael. “Oh God, let me be like him!”

5. Surely some unfiltered person somewhere has started a Nathanael Club..? Ah, maybe *you!*
 - a. It wouldn't be too far different from one of our daily exercises: "Forgive me"- meaning I need forgiveness for something.
 - b. How to define? What commands have I broken?
 - c. It's just that we stay too general and stop before the process has nearly had a right to really end
 6. But Nathanael mastered the process, so it can be done
 - a. Why oh why do we not envy him!?
 - b. Strange that we're content to leave him in the 'spiritual weirdo' file
 - c. (I have some fig trees if anyone wants to rent space)
- E. "Before His face," separating a compound word a bit
1. A parallel we should recognize from the Ten Words: "There won't be for you (Don't have) other gods before My face," Exod 20:3
 2. And yet Israel's history was characterized by continually pursuit of other gods
 3. Hence, knowledge of God's face towards us/His eyes on us makes no difference in itself
 - a. That is, it's as easy to forget that reality as it is any Biblical reality
 - b. That's why the normal Christian life includes continuous meditation on Scriptures and continuous prayer
 - i. (Why are there so many abnormal Christians?)
 - ii. The scary reality is that what we think on is who we are. Is most professing Christians' absence of Godward thoughts a sign of their lack of *God*?
 - iii. Sign of a true Christian: concern unto action at the above dilemma

Kid-speak: We should think of God's face looking right at us. That's easier for you as a child. Us grown-ups have been practicing hiding from God a lot longer. But when you do something bad, you try to hide from God too.

- F. "But all (plural) is naked... to His eyes"
1. Meaning He sees through everything to it rawest essence
 2. Especially, He sees through people's motives vs. their

- facades
3. Humans get plenty of wake-up calls throughout their lives that the persona and communications they manifest do not match their darker motives
 - a. That is, we all want to be thought of well
 - b. In fact, conscience makes us all want to think of *ourselves* well
 - c. But we all become aware that our desired persona doesn't match our hidden inclinations
 - d. E.g., we are all much more selfish than we manifest outwardly (read Rouchefoucauld!)
 4. There are two basic responses to this human dichotomy
 - a. Just act nice and ignore the inner darkness
 - i. We can do this so well that we believe our own act
 - ii. Some of the very nicest people are the ultra-fakiest
 - b. Acknowledge the selfishness/pride and deal with it as a force that must be fought
 - i. Poor non-Christians who don't have God's help in this!
 - ii. But even they can call on Him and be helped- even if that's all the help they request
 5. We are all 2-layered creature. We are inwardly *aware* of ourselves and outwardly *portraying* ourselves.
 - a. Again, we all become aware of inconsistencies: it's the reality of a sin nature dwelling alongside a conscience
 - b. The goal is not to match the two (Yikes!) The goal is to project the new man in Christ with sincerity, not pretense

Kid-speak: Who are you when you think of yourself? We all have a 'picture' of ourselves in our thinking. But how do we talk and act with other people? That's a *different* picture that we want people to see. We want people to see us being nice, which is good, but we shouldn't pretend like that's all we are. Remember, God still sees our sin inside us.

G. "All is... having-been-exposed *stuff* to His eyes"

1. "Having been exposed"- interesting word! We get our word trachea from it.
 - a. It's association with the neck has to do with submission: being put in a place of utter subjection (as in bending the head/neck back)
 - b. It was apparently used in wrestling of what we call a

submission hold

2. GOD'S GAZE BRINGS ALL RESISTANCE TO A GRINDING HALT
 - a. And there's plenty of resistance- among men and angels
 - b. But God sees through it all:
 - i. Its futility
 - ii. Its self-deception
 - iii. Yet its insistence on conquest
3. But God's seeing gaze will not completely match His arresting gaze until the Great White Throne, Rev 20
 - a. We warn men, but quoting Scriptures doesn't stop them in their tracks, for instance
 - b. Their checkmate could not be any more complete before God, but they are often left to play out the session (meaning 'clearing the board' in anger or pulling out an imaginary king and declaring victory)
 - c. Christian martyrdom is often the result
4. But all our words up to martyrdom will have arrested them. Even our silence will have.

Kid-speak: What's the only way for us to see what God sees in us? Read the Bible!

- H. "Towards Whom is our accounting [logos]"
1. All men are 'writing' a ledger
 2. It is an unvarnished account, because the 'writing' is simply their real motives and acts, not their spin on it
 3. The ledger stands open before God
 4. The ledger will be opened on the last day, Rev 20:12, "books were opened"
 5. For unbelievers, this will be utterly terrifying, Rev 20
 - a. (Imagine not wanting to be known!!)
 - b. (Shouldn't that be our basic desire?!)
 - c. Perhaps this above all else exposes the nature of sin. Sin is stealth mode before a God whose radar far excels the best, strongest stealth.
 6. But believers, too, can be caught red-handed, 1 Jn 2:28
 - a. That's the advantage of today. We are here TO BE exposed.
 - b. And, on the bright side, it's a kind of installment plan. He doesn't have to expose us all at once.
 - i. (I really wonder if the normal reaction to that would be

a heart attack)

- ii. (Meaning that we'll all still have a megala-jump from our present self-knowledge and our revelation in His presence. We'll all say, "I knew I was filthy, but...!")
- iii. (But the Nathanaels' jumps will be the least disruptive)

Kid-speak: What does God want to do while I'm talking about the Bible? Show us who we are! (Me included)

V. For the Walking Wounded (1 Thess 5:14, "Uphold the strengthless")
The easiest thing to unveil to God is a vulnerability, but it's probably the hardest.

VI. Conviction (2 Tim 4:2, "Convince, rebuke"): **What have I done wrong?**
How have I lost righteousness?
What are the ways I don't see that I deflect God's gaze?

VII. Correction/ Realignment (2 Tim 4:2, "Exhort/encourage"):
How will I correct my error? How will I regain uprightness?
I will invite God's scrutiny and expect it.

VIII. Schooling in Righteousness: **How will I avoid the error and follow Christ?**
Time must be scheduled for God's presence.

Wrap-up: David