

The Hiding Place

Psalms 139: 1

Revelation 2: 1-7 An Example of what happens when humans even unknowingly hide from God!

The people of the Church of Ephesus were hiding from God and did not even know it!

Humans hiding from God? How could humans think that they can hide from God?

- Adam and Eve were the first ones who thought that they could hide from God in Genesis 3: 9 “Adam, Where art thou?” Hiding in the trees...
- Achan in Joshua’s day was hiding his greed from everyone but God as he buried an outfit in the floor of his tent in Joshua... Joshua 7: 1, ..Ch. 6: 16-17 / Exodus 23: 19 *“The first of the first fruits of the land thou shalt bring in to the house of the LORD the God...”* He buried God’s Property in the middle of His tent...! **The truth is, he was hiding God’s property from everyone but God!**
- Moses hid in the wilderness in the land of Midian.
- David hid in his palace and behind His past reputation. But he could not hide from God!
- Jonah hid in the bottom of the ship sailing away to Tarsus. Jonah 1: 3 *“But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.”*
- The religious Pharisees of Jesus day hid in ceremony and legal words that they had said was from God.
- Simon Peter hid in an offense against Jesus with silence and eventually tried to hide in his previous lie (a boat), his old carrier.
- Judas hid by hanging himself instead of facing everyone that he had been with for 3 plus years.
- Saul of Tarsus hid behind hatred for Christians, for a time and a mission to fulfill his well-known zeal.
- The church at Ephesus is hiding from God and what does God say?

This Church hid behind religious activity:

- Work – 2014 – the word translated “work” is a word for shine or show yourself to be... This is what would be done to publicly display whose they were. (vs 2)
- Labor – religious labor
- Patience – 5281 – cheerful endurance
- Rejecting Evil – 2556 – retreat from evil
- Tried them – 3985 – you have examined them thoroughly
- Patience – 5281 – cheerful endurance
- Not fainted – 2577 – becoming weary but have not quit
- Hatred for false teachers

What did all this produce? Verse 5 – a church without Jesus!!!

A church without Jesus because they were hiding in these activities but were not doing the work that they were commissioned to do.

- One cannot hide from God!
- One cannot hide anything from God

Adam and Eve, Cain and the burial of Abel, Moses and the death of an Egyptian or going into the wilderness, Achan, David, Jonah, Simon Peter, Judas, the Church of Ephesus... There is no hiding anything from God!