

FOOLING GOD?

Alan Smith tells several interesting stories about below average criminals in a recent *Thought for the Day*:

- When two service station attendants in Ionia, Michigan, refused to hand over the cash to an intoxicated robber, the man threatened to call the police. They still refused, so the robber called police and was arrested.
- A pair of Michigan robbers entered a record store, waving their revolvers in the air. One yelled “nobody moves!” His partner moved, so... he shot him. “I was a little nervous,” he was quoted as saying.
- In great Britain in 1997, a young man decided to blackmail a well-known supermarket chain by threatening to contaminate the foods on sale there. He sent a note demanding 30,000 pounds to be paid into his bank account and provided - just to make sure that they got the right amount into the right account – his bank account number. Not surprisingly, he was soon caught and convicted.
- Police in Radnor, Pennsylvania, interrogated a suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connecting it with wires to a photocopy machine. The message “he’s lying” was placed in the copier, and police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect wasn’t telling the truth. Believing the “lie detector” was working, the suspect confessed.

Trying to keep secrets from God is even more foolish than any of these. All things are naked and open to His eyes (Hebrews 4:13). No action we ever take is a secret from God. No thought we ever think is unknown to Him. Then the text says we must give account to Him. No one will be excused from the judgment seat of Christ. We must all appear there (2 Corinthians 65:10). Don’t think you are smart enough to pull the wool over God’s eyes. Don’t believe for one second that you will get away with sin.

On the other hand, God loves us and wants to forgive us. When He forgives, He forgets (Hebrews 8:12). You can’t hide from God, but you can take advantage of the opportunity to erase your sins from His memory. If you’ve never become a Christian, forgiveness is received by faith and submission to God’s will. That includes believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 8:24), repentance – turning away from sinful conduct (Acts 17:30), confession of your faith (Matthew 10:32), and baptism to wash away your sins (Acts 22:16). Such a saved individual must be faithful by walking in the light (I John 1:7). If you’ve become a Christian in the past, but stepped out of the light, then repent of your sins and confess them, and allow your brothers and sisters in Christ to pray with you for your forgiveness (Acts 8:22, James 5:16).

House to House - Heart to Heart
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