

“Naked and Exposed”

Hebrews 4:13 (ESV)

Paul in the city of Ephesus – Acts 19

- Paul experienced “open doors” to preach and teach the gospel. Three months in the synagogue, two years in the school of Tyrannus.
- God was working with Paul and the brethren “performing extraordinary miracles.”
- There were some who tried to copy or imitate Paul – verse 13. In particular, there were 7 who were a sons of a chief of the Priests named Sceva – verse 14.

Paul in the city of Ephesus

- **Acts 19:15** – *“And the evil spirit answered and said to them, ‘I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?’”*
- **God not only knows those who are His** (2 Timothy 2:19; John 10:14) – who He can count on, who’s faithful and loyal, but even Satan’s ministering servants know who belongs to Jesus.

The Lord knows those who are His ... 2 Timothy 2:11-19

- Those who have died with Him. (verse 11)
- Those who have endured. (verse 11)
- Those who are faithful. (verse 12)
- Those who are focused. (verse 14)
- Those who are diligent workmen who know how to handle God’s word. (verse 15)
- Those who stand firm in the truth. (verses 16-18)

The Lord will not acknowledge those who are not His!

Matthew 7:21-23, *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’”*

The Lord will not acknowledge those who are not His!

- Luke records a similar discussion in which Jesus Christ indicts those whom He has not sent:
- Luke 13:25-27 – *“Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ 26 Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; 27 and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’”*

Paul in the city of Ephesus – the seven sons of Sceva

Acts 19:16 – “And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that **they fled out of that house naked and wounded.**”

Like these seven fraudulent men who weren't what they said, all who live a life of hypocrisy will be “exposed” or “laid bare.”

Jesus promised that nothing will remain concealed. Luke 12:1-3

“Nothing covered up that will not be exposed ...”

- **Hebrews 4:12-13**, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but *all things are open (naked, ASV, NKJV, ESV) and laid bare (laid open, ASV; exposed, ESV) to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.***”

Naked and Exposed

- As a soul without the body. 2 Corinthians 5:3
- As a kernel without the husk. 1 Corinthians 15:37
- As a body without it's clothing. Acts 19:16

Laid bare – to bend back the neck for the fatal stroke ... “the grip of an antagonists throat that renders him limp and powerless, sometimes called a ‘submission hold’ or ‘strangle hold’” – vulnerability.

In the beginning ...

- Sin resulted in physical and spiritual nakedness before God. Adam and Eve were exposed. Genesis 3:6-7
- Because of the exposure of their sin, they now tried to hide themselves from the presence of the Lord. Genesis 3:8, 10
- God asked, “*who told you that you were naked?*” Genesis 3:11. God asked if they had violated His will. Their sin had rendered them exposed in God's sight and they were now ashamed.

Spiritual Nakedness

- Throughout scriptures, nakedness, and its corresponding shame, is spoken of as our condition in sin.
- Notice what is said of:
 - Babylon in Isaiah 47:1-3 and of
 - Israel in Ezekiel 16:35-39.

Spiritual Nakedness

- Spiritual nakedness is so deceptive and so damning.
- **Revelation 3:17-19**, “... ***you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me ... white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed***”

What are we to do?

- We need to get dressed! Matthew 22:11-12
- Those who **“put on Christ”** (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 3:27) will not be found naked. (2 Corinthians 5:1-4)
- Must stay properly clothed. Revelation 16:15; Revelation 7:13-14; Zephaniah 1:7-10

Exposure of hypocrisy

- Causes man to fear and confess their sins.
- Acts 19:17-20 – *“This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. 18 Many also of those who had **believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.**”*
- More than **“disclosing their practices,”** they rid themselves of such publicly.

Self Examination

- We always need to be looking into the mirror. 2 Corinthians 13:5; James 1:21-25.
- Will we recognize when we're spiritually naked and exposed? Hebrews 4:11-13
- *“... there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”*
- Will you be clothed with Christ today?