

## He That Covereth A Transgression

### I. Introduction:

- A. The Scriptures speak of exposing transgression (**Isaiah 58:1**).
  - 1. Reproving [admonish; rebuke (Strong's # 1651)] rather than having fellowship with (**Ephesians 5:11**).
  - 2. Even to the point of sharp rebukes (**Titus 1:11-14**).
- B. The Scriptures also speak of every transgression receiving a just recompense of reward (**Hebrews 2:1-3**).
  - 1. Every work was and will be brought into judgment (**Ecclesiastes 12:14** and **II Corinthians 5:10**).
  - 2. So, some people try to hide those sins (**Genesis 3:1-12**, **Joshua 7:1-26**, and **Acts 5:1-11**).
  - 3. Is possible to conceal something from God (**Jeremiah 23:24**; cf. **Proverbs 15:3**)?
  - 4. So, with all of that ground covered...

### II. Body: What is meant in the teaching of **Proverbs 17:9**?

- A. A covered sin is biblically defined as a forgiven sin (**Psalms 85:2** and **Romans 4:7-8**).
  - 1. God has, in both covenants, placed conditions on the forgiveness of sins (**II Chronicles 7:14**, **Luke 13:1-5**, and **Acts 3:19**).
  - 2. We understand that forgiveness is made possible through the blood of Christ (**Colossians 1:12-14**).
  - 3. So, what is meant in **Proverbs 17:9**?
- B. It cannot mean that one should try to hide his own or someone else's sins in some dishonest, cover-up (**Proverbs 28:13** and **I John 1:9**).
  - 1. The language in **Proverbs 17:9** gives the ability to cover a transgression into the hands of men. So, what can that consistently mean? Consider: **Matthew 18:15-35** and **I Corinthians 6:1-8**.
  - 2. The point about repeating sins separating friends (**Proverbs 16:28**).
  - 3. The willingness to help another through forgiveness is an act of love (**Proverbs 10:12** and **I Peter 4:8**)?
  - 4. What sins do you or I have the ability to forgive, to cover (**Luke 17:1-4**)?
  - 5. Remember, our forgiveness has to be patterned after the Lord's forgiveness (**Ephesians 4:32**).
- C. How can someone help another properly cover a sin against God (**James 5:19-20**)?
  - 1. Make sure you're in a position to help (**Matthew 7:1-5**).
  - 2. Understand the approaches to use (**Jude 1:22-23**).

3. Know the difference between someone who has basically slipped into sin (**Galatians 6:1-2**) and someone you have to deal with differently who is less than willing to repent (i.e. **Titus 3:9-11**).
4. Having the goal to bring about true restoration. Never give a false sense of security to someone lost (**Jeremiah 23:13-14**).

III. Conclusion: **Psalms 32:1**