

*Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. (Psalm 19:12-13)*

Christians are not sinlessly perfect. But their goal and heartfelt desire is nothing less than sinless perfection. Some, who do not realize the deceitfulness of the human heart, think themselves to be incapable of sin. But those who know something of the holiness of God and the true nature of sin, which is anything short of the divine perfection that exists in God alone, know only too painfully that they must do battle with sin in their daily lives.

This prayer before us displays the double sin-problem daily faced by the godly person. They are described as secret faults and presumptuous sins.

Secret faults are those of which we are not aware. If a man is incapable of doing all that he knows to be right, how much more unable is he to even know all that is wrong about himself. The fact that we are ignorant of our errors does not correct them. They are still wrong. They are transgressions of God's holy law and offensive to Him. We may tolerate and endure our ignorant children's blunders, but we do not foolishly deny that they are wrong. As fallible erring parents we forgive and excuse our children for their ignorance. God, Who is perfectly holy and Who is responsible to execute justice in the universe, cannot so forgive sin without compensating for it. God indeed forgives sin but only on the basis that the penalty for those sins were paid in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Therefore, we need to be cleansed from secret faults. Presumptuous sins, those acts which we willfully committed knowing full well they were transgressions of God's law, we can confess and forsake. But secret faults, those that are hidden from our eyes, those immoral deeds that have not violated our low sense of morality, we cannot confess and forsake because we do not know they exist. Yet exist they do, no less hateful in God's sight than those which we recognize.

How wonderful to have a Redeemer to plead our cause by His own righteousness when we do not even have enough presence of mind to know that we need an Advocate. Such is the salvation that is in Christ Jesus the Lord!

-C.M.