

“Keep Your Servant from Presumptuous Sins”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Psalm 19:13 - “Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.”
 - 1. Zed (zade) Hebrew - “arrogant, presumptuous, proud” (Strongs 02086)
 - 2. 2Peter 2:10 - tolmetes (Greek) “daring, audacious man; presumptuous” (Strongs 5111); “shameless, irreverent, daring” (Vines)
 - 3. “Over-stepping proper bounds; taking liberties” (Webster)
- B. Practically speaking: “I know what God said, but I think, I believe, I feel, I want, I will...”
 - 1. We don’t get to judge or decide whether a sin is presumptuous; God has decided what things are presumptuous sins.
 - 2. We may think that the choice to do otherwise is the best course or make sense or makes people happy, but to do so presumes that God was mistaken when He gave the command
- C. David was right to fear presumptuous sins
 - 1. “The believer, who at one moment groans under the burden of sin and who is aware of the seriousness of sin, is still capable of falling into willful sin, a sin that contradicts what he knows to be true. There is nothing safe about living in a sin he knows to be wrong.” (John Calvin)
 - 2. “David saw the difference between, on the one hand, sins that we commit because they baffle us and sneak up on us [“hidden faults” of verse 12], and on the other hand, sins that we commit because we presume to know better than God or presume that the sin is no big deal. The point is not that there is a special category of extra-bad sins, like murder, assault, treason, etc. The point is that there is a special category of sinning, namely, sinning in arrogant defiance of a known law. It’s not so much what you do that puts sinning in this category as whether you do it with forethought, defiance and rebellion. This is what David calls presumptuous sins. They are fully intentional, with eyes open, and with a heart that says, ‘I know God says this is wrong and harmful, but I’m going to do it anyway.’” (Tony Reinke)
 - 3. Ex. 21:12-14

I. PRESUMPTUOUS SIN IS GREAT TRANSGRESSION

- A. Psalm 19:13 presumptuous sin is called “the great transgression.” (Hebrew - “rebellion” - Strong’s H6588)
- B. “Aren’t all sins great transgressions?” God inspired David to call it great transgression; don’t presume to correct Him.
- C. It is so great that God required that some presumptuous sins be punishable by death - Num. 15:30-35; Deut. 17:12-13, 18:20-22

II. BIBLE EXAMPLES OF PRESUMPTUOUS SINS

- A. Cain - Gen. 4:1-13
- B. Moses - Num. 20:7-12

- C. Nadab and Abihu - Lev. 10:1-7
- D. Uzzah - 2Sam. 6:1-11
- E. Israel - Deut. 1:42-46; Num. 14:4-45

III. "KEEP YOUR SERVANT FROM PRESUMPTUOUS SINS"

- A. David understood that as a man accustomed to use of power, he would be tempted to believe he had a right to overrule God, and thus, ironically, be overruled by his own presumption ("Let them not have dominion over me")
 - 1. 2Peter 2:19; John 8:34
- B. David recognized that presumptuous sins quickly harden the conscience and make one reprobate, unable to be reached and restored by the truth
 - 1. Num. 15:30; Isa. 45:9
- C. David discerned that humility was the best defense against presumptuous sins
 - 1. Rom. 9:20, 12:3; James 4:10; 1Peter 5:5

Conclusion:

- A. David knew that presumptuous sins are "the great transgression."
 - 1. It is destructively, foolishly arrogant for a weak, puny, sinful, limited man to speak and act divergently when infinite, Holy, Almighty God has already spoken.
 - 2. "A modest man is steady, an humble man reticent, and a vain one presumptuous." (Mary Wollstonecraft)
 - 3. "Often a whole city suffers for a man who sins and contrives presumptuous deeds." (Hesiod)
- B. Col. 3:12 - "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering..."