

THEME: My heart- Christ's home

TITLE: Is your heart a home for Jesus? The Hall Closet

SONG: THE SECRET PLACE

HIDE ME IN YOUR HOLINESS

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. This series features the booklet entitled 'My heart, Christ's home', written by Robert Boyd Munger in 1936. Have you found yourself entering the rooms of your heart that Mr. Munger is visiting with Jesus?

It's an intriguing concept but even more than that, it is an invite to self-examination as we consider how we are living our lives in the presence of our Lord. In this program we will explore what we've stored in our secret room – the hall closet. Be prepared to be confronted with things you think you have hidden from the Lord. Open your heart again as you listen.

The rec room was pretty revealing, I think. We know in our heart when we are entering into activities or relationships that we wouldn't want Jesus to be involved in. But there is even more – we may still have some 'old – before we came to Christ' things we are holding onto. As a pastor of mine used to say, "Be sure your sins will find you out." They may or may not be sinful issues, but nevertheless they do not benefit us or Jesus and are certainly not befitting our Christian walk.

The room, or area, we are entering today is the Hall Closet. Here's how Mr. Boyd sees it...

There's one more matter of critical consequence I would like to share with you. Once day I found Him waiting for me at the front door. An arresting look was in His eye. As I entered, He said to me, "There's a particular odor in the house. Something must be dead around here. It's upstairs. I think it is in the hall closet."

As soon as He said this, I knew what He was talking about. Indeed, there was a small closet up there on the hall landing, just a few feet square. In that closet behind lock and key I had one or two little personal things I did not want anybody to know about. Certainly I did not want Christ to see them. There were dead and rotting things leftover from the old life – not wicked, but not right and good to have in a Christian life. Yet I loved them. I wanted them so much for myself I

was really afraid to admit they were there. Reluctantly I went up the stairs with Him and as we mounted, the odor became stronger and stronger. He pointed at the door and said, "It's in there! Some dead thing!"

It made me angry! That's the only way I can put it. I had given Him access to the study, the dining room, the living room, the workroom, the rec room, the bedroom and now He was asking me about a little two-by-four closet. I said to myself, "This is too much! I am not going to give Him the key."

"Well," He responded, reading my thoughts, "if you think I am going to stay up here on the second floor with this smell, you are mistaken. I will take my bed out on the back porch or somewhere else. I'm certainly not going to stay around that."
And I saw Him start down the stairs.

When you have come to know and love Jesus Christ, one of the worst things that can happen is to sense Him withdrawing His face and fellowship. I had to give in. "I'll give you the key," I said sadly, "but You'll have to open the closet and clean it out. I haven't the strength to do it."

"I know," He said, "I know you haven't. Just give me the key. Just authorize me to handle that closet and I will." So with trembling fingers, I passed the key over to Him. He took it from my hand, walked over to the door, opened it, entered it, took out the putrefying stuff that was rotting there and threw it all away. Then He cleansed the closet, painted it and fixed it up in a moment's time. Immediately a fresh, fragrant breeze swept through the house. The whole atmosphere changed. What release and victory to have that dead thing out of my life! No matter what sin or what pain there might be in my past, Jesus is ready to forgive, to heal and to make whole.

So ends the reading.

When I was young we used to form clubs in our neighborhood and depending on who was in the club we had access to a shed we made into a clubhouse. Typical of clubs, we had secrets that only club members knew. That's because we were close friends and formed a bond.

With Jesus as our Savior, we find that He is our best friend. He sticks closer than any club member ever would. This means we can and

should form a bond with Him and feel free to share all our secrets. Only He can effectively reveal and help us remove the things that are hindering our relationship.

Closets are places where we store things that no one really sees, especially guests. They are usually cluttered because they are not attended to as much as other places in the home.

In Mr. Boyd's writing he defines these things as baggage left behind that may be still cherished before we entered into a relationship with Jesus.

There are no secrets with God.

Psalm 44:21a says that God already knows the secrets of our heart.

And Ecclesiastes 13:4 says...

God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Hebrews 12:14 says that without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

As a Believer in Christ, we are considered righteous, or in right standing with the Lord, because of the blood of Christ shed for the remission of our sins.

According to 1 Corinthians 1:30 Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

But with secret sins in our life we will never have the fellowship He desires us to have with Him or be able to worship Him in the splendor of His Holiness. God is holy.

Ephesians 4:22-24 says...

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

We can only begin to understand His holiness when we ascribe to holiness ourselves. It is the same with faithfulness. We understand the faithfulness of God to the degree we are faithful.

The word HOLY means ‘spiritually pure, sanctified (or set apart), dedicated to the service of God. What an honor that God considers us as set apart to Himself, the Almighty Creator of the vast universe.

2 Corinthians 7:1b instructs us...

... let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Why not ask God to hide you in His holiness?

******* WRITER: Maranatha! Music**

***** HIDE ME IN YOUR HOLINESS *****

HIDE ME IN YOUR HOLINESS

***Hide me Lord in Your Holiness
Every sins I now confess
Praise to You forgiving Lord
Hide me in Your Holiness
Hide me in Your Holiness***

***Make my life an offering
All of me to You I bring
Praise to You most Spotless Lamb
Hide me in Your Holiness
Hide me in Your Holiness***

***Hide me – hide me – hide me Lord
Won't You hide me – hide me
Hide me in Your Holiness
Hide me in Your Holiness
In Your Holiness!***

I want to close with a song that really changed my life and opened the door for a wonderful relationship with the Lord. There was a barrier between me and Jesus - I couldn't figure out what it was so I began praying about it. When I heard this song for the first time it touched my heart. I pulled off the road and cried. God revealed it to me. I had let unforgiveness brood in my heart since I was a child. I opened up my secret room to Him and He helped me totally forgive. What a release it was for me.

Maybe you are there, too. Just listening carefully to the words, open your heart to God and let Him clean house.

***** **WRITER: Stephen Chapman**

*** **THE SECRET PLACE** *** **LENGTH: 3:16**

THE SECRET PLACE

VERSE 1

*A heart is like a house - one day I let the Savior in
There are many rooms - where we would visit now and then
But then one day He saw that door
I knew the day had come too soon
I said Jesus I'm not ready -for us to visit in that room*

CHORUS 1

*'Cause that's a place in my heart - where even I don't go
I have some things hidden there - I don't want no one to know
But He handed me the key - with tears of love on His face
He said "I wanna made ya clean
Let me go in your secret place."*

VERSE 2

*So I opened up the door - and as the two of us walked in
I was so ashamed - His light revealed my hidden sin
But when I think about that room now -I'm not afraid anymore
'Cause I know my hidden sin
No longer hides behind that door*

CHORUS 2

*It was a place in my heart - where even I wouldn't go
I had some things hidden there - I didn't want no one to know
But he handed me the key -with tears of love on His face
He made me clean - I let Him in my secret place*

TAG: Is there a place in your heart -where even you won't go?

You've been listening to Grace Notes.

The booklet, 'My Heart Christ's Home' can be purchased online.

If you have been blessed by this ministry, your note of encouragement would be greatly appreciated. You can write to us at

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or email us through our web site at

www.gracenotesradio.com.

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