

Unless...

Today's Reading Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

"There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known." (Lk. 12:2) Those words spoken by Jesus provide a sobering reminder. No secret word, thought, or deed escapes the current scrutiny and future judgment of God, unless... Well, we'll come back to the "unless..." part later.

That reality of unavoidable, all-inclusive judgment is part of the final conclusion drawn by Solomon in your reading today. He points out that there is nothing that will escape judgment. It is important, however, to understand other biblical principles that give further definition to this judgment.

1. The judgment for those without Christ will include eternal torment and separation from God (2 Thess. 1:8, 9).
2. Those who know Christ will not experience a judgment that determines destination (Heaven or Hell). Christ's work on the cross has secured their

eternal life with God (1 Jn. 5:11-13).

3. Those who know Christ will, however, be subjected to judgment that takes even those hidden things into account (2 Cor. 5:10).
4. For believers, good will be rewarded and bad will result in loss of reward (1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10).

Things like thoughts, motives, conduct, and conversation are not moot points for believers. If you know Christ, your eternity is securely in His hands, but your rewards will be a reflection of your life. No wonder, Solomon describes your duty as "fearing God and keeping His commandments..." (v. 13).

So what about the "unless"? Is there a way to remove some of your less than stellar performances from the agenda for conversation at the judgment seat of Christ? The answer is yes, through confession! By admitting to God in repentance your own shortcomings, He removes those shortcomings from issues of judgment. Are there things that you should clear up with Him now?