

Madison Heights Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
149 Main Street  
Madison Heights, VA 24572

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## MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

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### Did You Know?

When the Hebrews were being lead by Moses, he taught them about the things that were pleasing and unpleasing to God and he strongly encouraged the people to obey the words of the covenant. He cautioned them against turning away from God and strongly warned them about the consequences of worshipping false gods. When he warned the people that God would get angry and punish them, they demanded proof. The problem for them was that Moses had knowledge that they do not have. They didn't like it that Moses knew what they did not.

I once read a story written by a woman that worked in a law firm. The attorneys were not happy with the performance of one of her colleagues. One day the colleague appeared at the doorway of her office and confronted her with tears in her eyes, a dazed look on her face, and announced "they fired me!" She studied the face of her coworker and asked "did you know?" The nervous and awkward body language revealed that she had known the secret.

I once had a similar experience. The sales manager was not a good salesman or manager and the entire store suffered accordingly. One day a coworker told me that they were going to fire the manager and instructed me to keep it secret and then to pretend like I didn't know. Well, that made me very uncomfortable and I am sure that my body language revealed that I knew it beforehand.

We all have secrets. Some are good to keep and some are bad. As in the above examples, sometimes keeping a secret can be a problem. Likewise, sometimes not keeping a secret can be problematic due to the hurt that it causes and the violation of trust. Keeping a secret can create anxiety when it involves someone that is close to you but you did not tell him or her. It may be surprising to know that God also has secrets. **Deuteronomy 29:29** The secret things belong to the Lord our God (NRSV). In **Daniel 12:8-9** Daniel asks "what shall be the outcome of these things?" the Lord responds "the words are to remain secret and sealed" (NRSV). Sometimes even Jesus encouraged some of the people to keep secrets.

Some things just are not meant to be known and sometimes you are in the know about things that are not meant to be kept secret. The Good News is not something that you should keep secret. Nothing would stop the apostles from spreading the word, not the law, or the risk of punishment, or even imminent death. Their focus was to make absolutely sure that Jesus would not be a secret. Imagine how bad it would be if someone that you care about found out about Jesus from someone else and comes up to you and asks "did you know?"

I went to the grocery store this past Sunday after church and apparently I was the only person in there that was wearing a suit. When I was checking out the cashier asked "Are you a preacher?" A religious conversation developed and she told me about joining her church in 2012. I began to wonder if I had the opportunity to know her back then if I would have kept Jesus a secret. I wonder how many lives we touch on a daily basis and we end up keeping the gospel a secret. Maybe God has a bigger plan for you than you have for yourself. Hopefully someone you know won't discover the love of the Lord through someone else and end up asking you "Did you know?"

George