

The Hypocrite

By

Rev. Louis Showers, Sr.
Goshen, Indiana

Dear Friend, since coming into October, many thoughts of memories have crossed my thinking today; some of them from my earliest memories of my childhood. Since October is the month that the world celebrates Halloween, I was recalling how at grade school we were asked to bring from home an old pair of our mother's hoses or stockings. We then put some cold cream on our faces, stretched the stocking over our heads and then we took cut up pieces of newspaper that we placed into a bowl of glue and started pasting them on our faces over the stocking. If we needed help we could ask a classmate to help us by placing the paper-on our faces to make sure our faces were covered. After a period of doing this and the glued paper drying on the stocking, the teacher used scissors to cut the stocking at the back of our heads thus freeing us from the now paper Mache false faces we had just started to create for Halloween. The next step was to add more paper and glue to the face building up the shapes of noses, chins, etc. to create what we wanted to make the face to be. When that was finished we then painted the faces.

In our days we did not have trick or treating as this developed during our children's lives. My wife and I enjoyed taking out children out among the neighbors, friends and relatives in the trick or treating and we were always careful to examine all that our children acquired to be safe from something that could cause them harm. I recall one such aggressive and bold student who the day after Halloween stood before the class and said to our teacher, "Halloween is over teacher you can now take off your false face." My parents would have quickly corrected this kind of antic with the board of education, applying it liberally to the seat of learning.

But dear friend what does all of this have to do with the Lord Jesus, and how do we make an impact upon others during this time? First, The Scriptures speak clearly about people who pretend to be something they are not before others. In the church we call these people hypocrites, and God has made it clear that he hates hypocrisy. in fact He has said that no hypocrite will enter heaven. Any intention to deceive others with false pretenses is an abomination to the God who made us. Job.13:16 is where God declares that no hypocrite will ever come before God. In Matt.24:51. Jesus himself declared that all who God rejects will be cast into that portion with the hypocrites where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. God declares that place as an everlasting lake of fire that God prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels, with no escape or deliverance.