

others from who they really are. We don't want others to see that we are sick with sin. (1 Cor. 11:30) Again, in the final day, our masks will be gone and we will stand before God face to face.

2 Cor. 4:2 "but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

1 Cor. 4:5 "Wherefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall each man have his praise from God."

Rev. 20:11-12 "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were **judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.**"

Let us all take off our masks. Let us commit ourselves to being and showing that we are truly children of our God, servants of His Son. Let us boldly go forth as lights in this dark world, preparing ourselves to stand face to face before our Judge so we can hear the wonderful, "Enter in thou good and faithful servant."

Phil. 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons
Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist
Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10



Volume XXV

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Issue 24

If You Believe You Will See

Bryan Garlock

While studying John's account of the gospel of Jesus, it is obvious that many beautiful themes permeate the book. One of those themes is the opposition of sight and blindness (light and darkness). This theme is carried over into his first letter to Christians (1 John 1.5-10, 2.9-11).

John wrote, "Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.' Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him. Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not

confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. And Jesus cried out and said, 'Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.'" (12.38-45)

In John chapter nine we have a vivid picture of this theme. There we read, "Jesus said, 'For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'" (9.39-41)

The point is simple but profound: those that were spiritually blind were

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Please continue to pray for **Jean Cronce** and her family. Besides **Jean's** health, her nephew, **John Gibbert** was in a motorcycle accident recently is suffering some serious aftereffects.

Please pray for **Joey Avance's** father. He is being evaluated for a possible stroke.

Please remember **Maxine Burnham** in your prayers.

Here is the current schedule of services:

Bible Study:	9:30 AM
Services:	10:15 AM
Kids Only:	5:00 PM
Wednesday:	7:00 PM

Additionally, we are having studies on the life of Paul:

Monday:	7:00 PM
Friday:	7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Class:

Next class will be June 9th.

(cont. from pg. 1)

being enlightened (by truth) and those who claimed to be spiritually enlightened were becoming spiritually blind (remaining in darkness). This concept is manifested through belief or unbelief in

Jesus. In other words, when one believed Jesus as He taught the truth (John 8.31-32), he was no longer blind; that is, he was released from Satan's snare that kept him in darkness and ignorance (cf. 2 Cor. 4.4). On the other hand, when one said they believed in God ("we see the truth and Jesus is speaking falsehoods") and therefore rejected the One whom God sent (Jesus), they were really blind and showed themselves to be enslaved to Satan (see John chapters 8-10).

Elsewhere, Jesus said to a believer who did not understand His instructions, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" (11.40) Notice that one who believed in Jesus would fail to "see" something "if" they did not continue to trust Jesus (cf. 11.4). John drove this point further when he recorded that while the believers saw the glory of God, the unbelievers missed out and went further into darkness (11.45-48).

This ought to cause us to pause and ponder: "What will I fail to see if I do not believe?" This question is surely an open-ended question. Who can calculate all the wonders and mercies of God that could be experienced in one's life and the afterlife? It is unfathomable! Imagine not seeing the joy and peace that comes from forgiveness in Christ, the joy of being a member of a loving and supporting local church, the hope of eternal life, and the ability to face death without fear. If we do not believe, we will fail to see *everything* that God has in store for us (Rom. 8.32). B.G

Are You Wearing A Mask?

Bill Brittenham

Does the title of this article make you think it is about wearing a face mask during the current medical crisis? Perhaps it will be a comparison about protecting yourself from sin like the mask helps protect you and others from the virus. But it's not. It is about other masks Christians often wear.

The NT Greeks had a word for "stage actors who acted under an assumed character". Our English word is just that Greek word in the English form: "**Hypocrite**". Jesus uses the word frequently in His teachings and discussions with many of the Jewish religious leaders. (See Matthew chapters 6 and 23; Luke 12:56 and 13:15) The Greeks very literally saw actors as people who did not act like themselves, but acted like someone else. And we understand the meaning of "hypocrite" clearly as well. (In Luke 20:20, the word is translated "pretend" in many versions. "*So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.*")

Again, we ask the question, "**Are You Wearing A Mask?**"

1. Do you wear your mask only on Sundays and Wednesdays? Some Christians get ready to meet with their brethren by putting on the mask of "**Christianity**". And like the Greek actors, they then play the part of an assumed character. Why? Because the rest of the time, their "real" character and nature look more like the world around them than that of a NT Christian. They use their mask to hide bad language or lying or just plain worldliness.

2. Do you wear your mask only during

the week? Other Christians who love our Lord and want to be faithful put on a mask Monday morning and wear it while around others. These brethren may lack the courage to be lights in the world. (Act 28:15; 2Co 5:6-8; Heb 13:6) They may be ashamed of the gospel. (Mar. 8:38; Rom 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 4:16; 1 John 2:28) They may be timid in professing their faith and trying to teach others. (Act 18:9; Rev. 21:8) In other words, their mask hides their Christianity.

3. Do You Wear Your Mask Only At Home? Perhaps you take your mask out of the glove compartment on the way home and put it on for your family. You don't really want your wife or children to see how you behave away from home where you are dishonest or don't speak or act like a Christian or don't treat others with kindness and respect.

4. Do You Keep Your Mask Handy To Hide Your Faults and Sins? We may lose our temper or say bad words and grab for our mask to cover our failures.

5. Our masks. Masks usually serve one of two purposes. 1) They may hide the face they cover. 2) They may protect.

a. Criminals wear masks to conceal their identities to avoid being recognized. The masks we wear as Christians may be an attempt to hide our true identities, whether good or bad. We may (successfully) hide our good or bad nature from others. But be assured, we will not hide from our God and our Judge. When we appear before the Judgment throne of God, we will be unmasked and our true nature will be revealed.

b. As with the face masks many now wear to protect themselves and others from a virus, Christians may wear masks in a vain attempt to protect themselves or

(concl. on back page)