

THE MASK DOESN'T MATTER

Bobbing for apples, and finding rings or money in the baking started as a way of foretelling what sort of year a person would have, but surely it would be better to know the one who knows the future? After all God knows all about you as well as the beginning from the end.

He says

“ ...now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13

But it is how we respond to God in this life that determines where we will be after we die, so He says...

...how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

Hebrews 2:3

You can depend on the Lord Jesus for ever. He wants to give you a perfect future, even though He knows the real you behind the mask.

How do you respond to Him?

GETTING BEHIND THE MASK



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GREETINGS FROM

There is a knock at the door, and there disguised in all sorts of strange outfits, faces unrecognisable, stand a group of children. “Trick or treat” they sing out and proceed to cheer us up with a few jokes, in exchange for some sweets.

We can't tell who is in the group because we can't see their faces, and I suppose we are like that too.

In each of us there is hidden the real person –the one many never see. Then there is the face we let others see, and the one which our family sees, but sometimes we think ‘if only you really knew what is going on inside me?’

Thankfully someone does! God knows the real you, the one behind the mask and He is interested in you and wants to do something for you.

MASKING THE FEAR

Over many centuries the activities of Halloween built up from fears that people who had died would come back and not have found a resting place for their spirit.

It would be good to know that there is a place where we can go when we die that is happy, safe, good and perfect. The Bible calls it heaven.

And all can be there!

The Lord Jesus, Himself gives this assurance.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

...I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:1–3



UNMASKED

We still have all these fears today, even if the activities of Halloween are more ritual or for amusement than anything else. Surely we don't need to be afraid. However there is a lot of evil all around us and some of it comes from within people themselves. Good thing others can't see behind my mask. But we know what we are like ourselves and God knows what we are like right at our very core.

People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7

For

...out of the heart (the essential self) come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Matthew 15:19

These shortcomings, failures and fears are not what God desires for us or in us. He took action on your behalf, so that you don't need to be afraid of the future or of the evil around.



LIGHT AT THE CENTRE

Fires are lit, and candles shine out from the faces carved in turnips and pumpkins. People thought many years ago that the light would keep the evil away.

God **HAS** made a way for the darkness and evil to be overcome.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

After He died He came back to life so defeating the power of darkness, death and evil.

...the Messiah (Christ Jesus) would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

Acts 26:23

He wants all to come to the light. Why did the Lord Jesus have to become human for us?



PUTTING THE MASK AWAY

All the things of Halloween didn't work in the past and we know they don't work today, so what does work?

This is what God says works:

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

1 John 4:13-18

Will you turn from the dark, the fear and the rest of the sinful things and accept the light, love and forgiveness that the Lord Jesus died and rose again to provide?