



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 30, 2022

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Secretary:

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Scarier Than Halloween

One person had a dream about hell. She said,

There was nothing but desolation and hopelessness. You walk toward the gates of hell knowing that you will never again be free. I got to the gate and the keeper said, *“Hold it.”* I stood outside hell, and I saw people whose faces were twisted and tongues were thick, eyes bulging and hands split—dropping blood. I said, *“Sir, please let some air in.”* And he said, *“No air in hell.”* Then I said, *“Kind sir, let them have a drink of water.”* And he said, *“No water in hell.”* Then I said, *“If that’s true, let ’em die.”* And he said, *“No death in hell.”* I ask, *“How long will they suffer?”* And he said, *“Forever and ever! Hell has no exit and there is no death.”*

Luke, a physician (**Colossians 4:14**), is the only one who included Jesus’ teaching on the rich man in Hades (**Luke 16:19–31**). As a doctor at that time of limited knowledge and anesthetics, he had seen pain. Notice these descriptions of hell, pointing to the fact that it is a place of unrelieved pain:

Gnashing of teeth. The phrase *“gnashing of teeth”* is used of hell more often than any other besides fire (7 times: **Matthew 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28**). Thayer says *“gnashing”* (brugmos) is *“used to denote extreme anguish and utter despair of men consigned to eternal punishment in hell; snarling, growling: in the sense of biting.”*

Tormented day and night forever and ever (**Revelation 20:10; 14:10–11**).

Everlasting punishment (**Matthew 25:46; Hebrews 10:27–29**).

Tribulation and anguish (**Romans 2:8–9**).

No rest (**Revelation 14:11**).

By contrast, there will be no pain in heaven (**Revelation 21:4**).

via House to House,
Heart to Heart

Masks

Do you wear a mask? I can remember being so excited one year at Halloween. I found a mask on clearance. It was a full head mask with light up eyes and a voice changer built in. That thing was so hot, and my breath condensed on the inside, but man, I can remember how excited I was to wear it.

We often wear a mask. Our behavior and attitude changes depending on where we are and who we are with. People act one way when they are around their family, and a different way when they are at work or school. Do we act a different way when we are with the Church?

We can even wear a mask and try to hide things from ourselves. That covers our emotions, our sins, our weaknesses, and our fear of judgement. That mask is just as hot, suffocating, and unpleasant as that Halloween mask I had as a kid. We are afraid to be honest with ourselves because we might feel inadequate, exposed, vulnerable, and flawed. The truth is, we are all of those things.

Be honest with each other. The Bible addresses our hiding and lying to each other. *“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (Col. 3:9-10).* God knows that only through honesty can we grow and help others grow in the faith.

Be honest with yourself. *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test” (2 Cor. 13:5)?* We must be honest with our self. We need to be able to accept the truth to improve and work on areas in our own life.

Be honest with God, He already knows. There is no mask that can hide your actions, thoughts, and feelings from God. *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13).* If you think you are hiding from God, you are only fooling yourself.

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