

Hypocrisy

By Ron Boatwright

The hypocrite is a person who pretends to be much better than he is. A hypocrite is a godless person who is putting on a front. Jesus describes hypocrites in Matthew 6:5, "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward." The hypocrite is without hope as long as he remains in his hypocrisy. "For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he may gain much, if God takes away his life?" (Job 27:8).

But there are those people who say they do not want to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38), so they can be saved (Mark 16:16), and be added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:47), because of all the hypocrites in the church. There may be hypocrites in the church but they will be eternally lost in Hell if they continue in their hypocrisy. Hypocrites will be lost because Jesus says concerning the evil servant that He will "appoint him his portion with the hypocrites, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 24:51).

But what about those who say they do not want to be a member of the church of Christ because of all the hypocrites in it? They also will be spending forever and ever in Hell with all the hypocrites they say they don't want to be around in the church here on earth. The Bible says that when the Lord Jesus comes back, He will come "in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). So all those who will not obey the Lord and be added to His church (Acts 2:47), because they do not want to be around hypocrites in the church will be spending eternity in Hell with them whether they want to or not. Anyone who is lost in Hell will only have himself to blame because he chose to be in Hell and not Heaven.