Are you Wearing a Mask
pt 2 message
1 John 3

I will this morning be continuing my message on “Are You wearing a Mask” with part 2.

Many Christians, may hide behind a mask out of embarrassment of what they believe and want to be accepted by those that don't, and others that hide behind a mask that have evil in their hearts to lead others astray in favor of sin and evil desires.

We see the result of that from this weeks mid-term elections. Not that one party or the other is ready to do what is right before God.

1 John 3:1-3 **1**Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2**Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. **3**And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as Christ is pure.

God's word tells us as believers we are children of God, a status granted through faith and new birth. All men and women are the offspring of God in that he is the creator (Acts 17:28, 29). This relationship, however, isn't enough to offset the penalty of sin, because all are sinners separated from God (Romans 3:23). To become a child of God a transformation must take place. The Bible refers to this transformation as being born again (John 3:3). Yeshua told Nicodemus; “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” When an individual places their faith in Christ as their Savior, they are born again into a new spiritual, family relationship with God (Galatians 3:26) and receives God as their Father in heaven (Ephesians 4:6).

Those who have come to the cross, and have proclaimed Yeshua as not only God's one and only begotten Son, but also we profess Him as our Lord and Savior that by faith that only by His blood can we be forgiven of sin. Those of the world that reject Him also reject God.

God is love, and God is life.
When someone tells you that God hates them we should be quick to point them to these chapters and out of love for them , as God loves us, study with them, prepared to show how much God loves them.

Yeshua, Jesus Christ the righteous was sent here to this world by the Father as our Advocate due to our failure to live sinless lives, because of His love for us. He loved us to the degree of having His one and only begotten Son crucified for our sins.

The term **propitiation** refers to the act of satisfying or appeasing God’s righteous anger against sin. Because God is holy and just, His justice demands that sin be addressed, and His wrath burns against it as read in (Romans 1:18; Romans 3:24-26).

God declares guilty sinners completely righteous as a free gift through the sacrifice of Yeshua, which proves that God is both loving and perfectly just, but one must believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and accept Him as Lord and Savior for the moral penalty and debt that humans owed for breaking God's law. Through His death, the guilt of sin is taken away.

Paul packs three massive theological ideas into these verses: **justification**, **redemption**, and **propitiation**.

- **Justified :** A legal or courtroom term where a judge declares an accused person “not guilty” and fully righteous rather than punishing them, this is given freely by grace, meaning humans cannot earn it through good works. Won't matter how many nice things one does.

- **Redemption:** The act of paying a ransom price to buy someone out of slavery. Yeshua paid the ultimate price with His blood to free humanity from the slavery and penalty of sin. Not just one but all whom will believe in faith.

- **Propitiation:** A sacrifice that satisfies God's holy anger against sin. By placing His wrath on Yeshua instead of the sinner, God's justice is fully appeased.

God has given us the tools to use for the teaching of others.

It was the blood of God's own Son, blood that was innocent of any wrong doing and not of our own works which saves us. We were all guilty of death and a sentence of hell eternal due to our sin. But through the blood of Christ, a gift of His love for us, we were spared.

We should never be in fear of sharing the truth with others.

The principle of laying down one’s life for another appears prominently in 1 John 3:16 : *"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"* (KJV) .

What would you do to bring another closer to God, to know the same love that you have known and received from God and His Son.

Would or could any of us here today give our life so that others might live and know the truth of God and life eternal that He will provide.

If push came to shove, maybe.

Maybe something a little less extreme. What about helping a neighbor with their yard that has gone out of control, weeds grown high, a tree that has fallen down. Could you spare a little time to help them even if they are not a believer to show your walk before God.

What about someone that you may know that has fallen on bad times and has no place to stay or unable to take care of themselves due to an injury. Many of us have helped a family member when they were sick or disabled due to an injury. What if you don't know them. Maybe it's a stranger that is without a coat, or a pair of shoes, he or she hungers or thirsts. Would you, could you, show them a little love, feed and cloth them or just shrug your shoulders and say, not my problem.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:40.

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire

prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Matthew 25:41-45.

Being in prison is not only resting ones laurels in a prison cell, it can also be that one is lost and locked away in sin and can't see the way out. I just realized what the word prison could also mean. More then likely a word of God to me, and maybe others here today.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2.

It is not my intention to get political here today with my next comment, but many people including pastors and others used these scriptures and promoted not only criminal acts of illegal immigration, but also criminal acts of violence, and theft from the citizens of our country. God warns us to beware of deception.

1 John 3: 4-24 **4**Everyone who practices sin practices lawlessness as well. Indeed, sin is lawlessness. **5**But you know that Christ appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. **6**No one who remains in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has seen Him or known Him.

7Little children, let no one deceive you: The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.**8**The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the very start. This is why the Son of God was revealed, to destroy the works of the devil.

And up to this point in our lives a lot has been revealed in the past months. Recall all the scams, lies, and theft of our countries resources and wealth, due to greed and those whom were and still are drunk with power and evil intentions.

9Anyone born of God refuses to practice sin, because God's seed abides in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. **10**By this the children of God are distinguished from the children of the devil: Anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is anyone who does not love his brother. **11**This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **12**Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did Cain slay him? Because his own deeds were evil, while those of his brother were righteous.

Republicans, democrats, Christians and all persons hiding behind a mask of love, compassion, tolerance and sympathy, when their mask is removed their motives are revealed, deception, hatred of others, destruction of lives and life.

13So do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you.

14We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death. **15**Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that eternal life does not reside in a murderer.

16By this we know what love is: Jesus laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17If anyone with earthly possessions sees his brother in need, but withholds his compassion from him, how can the love of God abide in him?

18Little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in action and truth. 19And by this we will know that we belong to the truth, and will assure our hearts in His presence: 20Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and He knows all things.

21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God, 22and we will receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what is pleasing in His sight. 23And this is His commandment: that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and we should love one another just as He commanded us. 24Whoever keeps His commandments remains in God, and God in him. And by this we know that He remains in us: by the Spirit He has given us.

Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls" it was first published on December 19, 1776.

The line appears at the very beginning of *The American Crisis*, a series of pamphlets Paine wrote between 1776 and 1783 to inspire American colonists during the Revolutionary War.

George Washington had the pamphlet read aloud to his troops before the pivotal crossing of the Delaware and the victory at Trenton, using Paine's words to boost morale.

- There is also another phrase given by Paine "summer soldiers" and "sunshine patriots".

"Summer soldiers" describe those who support a cause only in easy times, a "sunshine patriot" is someone who claims to support the cause of freedom but abandons it when conditions become difficult or unpleasant.

> "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of men and women".

"Sunshine patriot" contrasted with "summer soldier" — both were metaphors for people who are willing to fight only in favorable circumstances, but who "shrink from the service" when the going gets tough.

Paine used the term to **shame those who pretended to be patriots but failed to stand by the cause in hard times** . It was a call for perseverance, loyalty, and moral courage, urging Americans to remain committed despite hardship.

We live in trying times today. As a Christian, As a child of God our perseverance, loyalty, and moral courage, is always under attack from those whom want nothing to do with God. Living in this world we are and always will be confronted by those whom wear a mask to hide their deceit, their evil intentions to cause God's people to surrender to them and submit to their evil ways. Such submission always leads to destruction and death. This is not acceptable.

Beginning today, pray as you have never prayed before. Pray for the leadership in our homes, in our places of worship, and within our government that righteous leaders will stand united for the truths of God, without hesitation. Pray that not one of God's children will be a sunshine patriot or summer

soldier in the army of God.

Let us all stand our ground against all that is wicked and evil and never surrender, never give up. If anyone has been hiding the light that God has given us, then remove that mask today and show the world who we are and the strength of our God.

If we must lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ, then let us consider it as gain and not loss. Amen, God Bless each and everyone. Amen, Shabbat Shalom.