

## No Fakes Allowed!

The vision Christ has for the church is for Christians to represent godliness in every way possible. Those who enter Christ through baptism are perfected by His blood, Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5. Once purified, a Christian must seek to walk in the light of God's will, 1 John 1:7. God is good, and He wants Christians to identify with Him by being good, 3 John 11. Jesus went to the point of saying that part of His vision of the kingdom would be that we would seek to, "be perfect," just like the Father is perfect, Matthew 5:48.

How does the Christian bring about such perfection? For some it is a call to fake it until you make it! Perhaps if you look the part, then sooner or later you will fill the part. Others have tried this approach. Do you remember Ananias and Sapphira? Barnabas had sold his land and brought the proceeds and laid it at the apostles' feet. You can not help but brag on such a thing! Ananias and Sapphira cook up a scheme to make everyone think they were equally committed. They sold their land, kept back of the proceeds, but when they laid the money before the apostles, they claimed that it was the entire amount! Things did not turn out quite like they thought it would. They paid with their lives, Acts 5:1-11.

Do you remember the old adage, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time?" Nothing is truer than this when it comes to the Christian life. Christians are not fools. What you wear, and how you look on Sunday morning may show that your life is in control, and your faith is full. However, if your faith is false, and your attempt to look the part is not genuine, it is only a matter of time before the truth will be discovered.

The story is told that during a political campaign a delegation of voters called on former president Theodore Roosevelt at his home in Oyster Bay, Long Island. The President met them with his coat off and his sleeves rolled up. "Ah, gentlemen," he said, "come down to the barn and we will talk while I do some work." At the barn, Roosevelt picked up a pitchfork and looked around for the hay. Then he called out, "John, where's all the hay?" "Sorry, sir," John called down from the hayloft. "I ain't had time to toss it back down again after you pitched it up while the Iowa folks were here." Embarrassing as it was, it proves a point. Even the best politician can not fool all the people all the time.

The apostle Paul said, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus," Philippians 3:14. Heaven is a goal that can only come about by planning and following the call of God as best you can. Improper motives and false facades will be discovered. Beside the obvious truth that you can not hide anything from God, even your brothers and sisters will see through

it ultimately. Solomon of old said, "He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known," Proverbs 10:9.

Jesus Christ—love Him, live for Him, and godly perfection will be the outcome.

—Scott