

# *Howards Corner*

## Cardboard Cut outs

This last year or so we have been faced with many different challenges caused by a Covid19 virus which hit not only the USA but was worldwide. Although it appears to be slowing down with the help of vaccinations, we have not completely seen the end of it. Its effects were devastation to many and is still raging in many parts of the world. A lot of people have died, and many are still in the hospitals around the world. Almost everyone knows someone that was affected by this virus either with health or financial issues or disruptions of our lives.

While the autopsy of this event will probably say it was due to a potent and dangerous virus, I see it from another point of view. This world has been going down a path which is heading away from God and shows no signs of turning back. We do not look at our status in the eyes of God. We think that we can fix it by our efforts but when we open our eyes and look, we see that we do not have answers for many questions in life. We have not humbled ourselves to look to our creator for answers.

The bible tells us that there is an end of the age and great trouble will come upon the earth. If we are wise, we can see that it is already happening and is getting worse, and man does not have an answer. Jesus said that there would be such things as earthquakes and pestilence and wars and natural disasters, and they would be like birth pangs –getting more frequent and with greater intensity. In my other writings I have explained more details about these birth pangs.

During all these troubling times there were times when I saw some humorous and prophetic things. Our sporting events got to the point we could not have all those fans getting together in one big arena, so we used our creativity to come up with an idea to make fake cardboard cut outs of fans and put them in the stands to give the appearance of having a crowd in attendance. It was funny to see all the faces of people propped up in the seats to give an illusion of live people.

This unfortunately is sad to me because it reminds me of the many people have become “cardboard cut outs” in life. We have put on these false fronts to others

and to God but have nothing worthwhile inside. We have lost our way, so we put on our outside suit of cardboard to others. For some it is to make money or fame or power or pleasure, to show ourselves to be of value but you cannot fool God. All walks of life contain these cardboard cut outs. Politicians and businesspeople and the average person on the street. They are also in the church. This bothers me most because we are supposed to know the difference and to know a better way. We are supposed to know “The Way” and have the spirit of truth in our hearts.

Our churches are full of people that bring their cardboard cut outs to church and do not even realize what they are doing. They have even fooled themselves into thinking they are a Christian, but many are not, but have put on their false fronts. The bible says it in another way—there will be the wheat and the tares that grow together and from the outside they look alike but only the wheat will produce fruit and the tares will be thrown into the fire and burned. Remember cardboard will burn easily.

We may fool our friends – we may fool our parents – we may fool our spouses – we may fool our pastors and church, but we cannot fool God. He can see to the very intent of our hearts.

The world will not understand what I am talking about, but I pray that the church will wake up and throw away all their cardboard and trade it in for a true heart that only Jesus can provide with the gift of the Holy Spirit which He called “Living Water”.

Look today to the only one who has answers to our questions of life. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the light. Come to the light while you can.

*Howard*