

## **"Look At Me"**

Even though I was a nominal church member before I had my spiritual birth, I thought I knew what church members were supposed to be. Certainly not hypocrites. And, in my superior adolescent opinion, our church was full of them. I felt free to tell the Lord what I thought of his church people.

"On Sunday, they get up and preach piously. During the week, you wouldn't know they were Christians. In Sunday School they are sanctimoniously spiritual; in business meetings they are caricatures of carnality. If that's Christianity, I don't want to have anything to do with it. But, I do admire my parents; they do live the life."

"You're right. Many of my children are hypocrites. They do not practice what they know, what they teach and preach. However, they have not denied me, so I will not deny them. Besides, I am not finished with them.

"If you know better, then you be an example to them. Already, you have had more education and more enlightenment than most of them. You have been given more, so you are responsible for more. Don't look at people; look at me.

"If I give you any reason to become disillusioned with me, then you can give up on me."

Many years have gone by since that particular conversation. I have only one brief comment. The Lord has had good reason to get disillusioned with me; but he has not given up on me, he is not through with me.

What mercy! What grace! ◇◇◇