

Let Us Examine Ourselves

Introduction

2 Cor 13:5-8

☛ **Many had been deceived; Must institute a strict and impartial examination to ensure they are not deceived**

1. In this text Paul tells us, "*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith*". Self-scrutiny is one of man's most neglected duties.
 - A. We sometimes delight in examining others but the work is not nearly so pleasant when it comes to a self-examination.
 - B. But regardless of the difficulty of the task, we must do as Paul instructs.
2. In our study of this lesson let us notice five things that our examination must consist of.

The Examination must Be Personal

1. Each and every person will be responsible for his own sins.

Ezek 18:20 "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

2. When we meet God at the judgment, each one of us will give an account of himself only!

2 Cor 5:10 For **we must all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that **each one** may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Rom 14:12 So then **each of us** shall give account of himself to God.

3. The question is not, "Am I physically strong?" or "Am I intellectually brilliant?" or "Am I popular among men?" but the question to be answered by this self-examination is, "Am I in the faith?" "Am I faithful to God?" This is the question of questions.

Matt 25:31-32 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

The Examination must Be by the Right Standard

1. **One cannot examine himself by the standards and doctrines of men.**

Isa 55:8-9 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

2. **It is absolutely foolish for one to trust in his own feelings during this self-examination.**

Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

3. **Comparing ourselves with other humans is not the right standard. Many compare themselves with spiritual weaklings and conclude they are spiritually strong.**

(Many church members are guilty of this very thing)

2 Cor 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

4. **The standard by which we examine ourselves must be by the high and infallible Word of God!**

John 12:48

The Examination must Be Thorough

1. **Whether you are in the faith is not to be assumed, but proven. Thus, the examination must be thorough. (PHYSICAL EXAM).**

A. **Our attitude should be that, as expressed by David in Psalms 139:23-24.**

Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, and **lead me in the way everlasting.**

2. **We should seek to improve and grow stronger in the Lord, day by day.**

Heb 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

3. **Solomon, after trying vainly to find happiness in worldly things, concluded that man never can be truly happy until he serves God faithfully.**

Eccl 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

4. **Therefore, this examination must be thorough, looking to our strong points, as well as our weak ones.**

A. **We must make our good points better, while eliminating the bad points.**

1) **We should strive to go on to perfection!**

James 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, **that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

The Examination must Be Honest

1. Most individuals are prone to apply to themselves easy and partial tests. Every man is tempted in self-examination, to be biased in his own favor, dwelling on strong points, ignoring the weak.
2. Sooner, or later, our sins will catch up with us. If not now, certainly at Judgment.
 - A. It is always best to admit our sins, confess them and obtain God's and man's forgiveness.
Numbers 32:20-23

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

I Jn 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Prov 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

3. Be honest in answering the following questions:
 - A. **Have I obeyed the gospel of Christ from the heart?**
 - B. **Am I faithfully living the Christian life - based on God's standard?**
 - C. **Do I really sacrifice to give to God?**

The Examination must Be Continuous

- 1. A favorable inventory for the business man one year does not automatically mean a favorable one every year.**
- 2. Many verses of scripture show that this examination must be continuous.**

1 Cor 9:27 But **I discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and **continues in it**, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

1 Jn 1:7 But if **we walk in the light as He is in the light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Rev 2:10**Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

Conclusion

- 1. The businessman who finds errors in his management and fails to correct them will bankrupt himself.**
- 2. The person who finds cancer in his body and refuses to have it removed will surely die.**
- 3. The one who finds sin in his life and does not remove it will be eternally lost!**

Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

