

EXAMINE YOURSELF

2Cor 13:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Most of the time we delight in examining others, but the work is not nearly so pleasant when it comes to self-examination
- B. Yet Paul tells us here to "examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith."
- C. Self- scrutiny is one of man's most neglected duties
- D. But regardless of the difficulty of the task, we must do as we are instructed by Scripture
- E. In studying this lesson we want to notice some characteristics of this examination

DISCUSSION:

I. EXAMINATION MUST BE PERSONAL

- A. Each person will be individually responsible
Ezek 18:20; Rom 14:12
- B. The question is not:
 1. Am I physically strong?
 2. Am I intellectually brilliant?
 3. Am I popular among men?
 4. The question is; Am I faithful to God?

II. EXAMINATION MUST BE BY RIGHT STANDARD

- A. Cannot be by standards and doctrines of men
Isa 55:8,9
- B. It is foolish to trust our own feelings Prov 14:12
- C. Can't compare ourselves with others 2Cor 10:12 (We might be comparing ourselves to spiritual weaklings)
- D. Gods' word is the standard Jhn 12:48
See also 1Cor 11:1

III. EXAMINATION MUST BE THOROUGH

- A. Whether you are in the faith is not assumed, but proven
Thus the examination must be thorough
- B. Should have the attitude of David Psa 139:23,24
- C. God will bring every work into judgment Eccl 12:14
- D. We should seek to improve and grow stronger in the Lord day by day Heb 6:1
- E. Solomon, after trying vainly to find happiness in worldly things concluded that man never can be truly happy until he serves God faithfully

1. This examination must then be thorough enough to look not only to strong points but weak ones as well
2. We must make our good points better while eliminating all the bad points

IV. EXAMINATION MUST BE HONEST

- A. Individuals are prone to apply easy and partial test
- B. Every man is tempted in self-examination to be biased in his favor, dwelling on strong points and ignoring weak ones
- C. Sooner or later our sins will catch up with us
Num 32:23 If not now then certainly in judgment
- D. It is always best to admit our sins and obtain God's and man's forgiveness Prov 28:13; Jas 5:16
- E. Be honest and answer the following questions:
 1. Have I obeyed from the heart the Gospel Rom 6:17
 2. Am I faithfully living as a Christian 1Cor 15:58
 3. Am I sacrificing for the cause of Christ Rom 12:1

V. EXAMINATION MUST BE CONTINUOUS

- A. A favorable inventory for the businessman one year does not automatically mean a favorable one every year
- B. Notice some scriptures which show this to be so
 1. I keep under my body 1Cor 9:27
 2. Continue in perfect law of liberty Jas 1:25
 3. Walk in the light 1Jhn 1:7
 4. Be faithful till death Rev 2:10

CONCLUSION:

- A. Our business is working for Christ - living as a Christian ought
- B. No self-respecting business man who finds errors in his management will allow them to stay
- C. He realizes that if allowed to stay they will bankrupt him
- D. The person who finds cancer in his body and refuses to have it removed will surely die
- E. The one who finds sin in his his life and does not remove it will be lost eternally.