

Examine - continued

Peter 1:10). We can know our standing before God (1 John 3:14; 4:13).

Second, "Is Christ in me?"

Jesus Christ dwells in every faithful child of God (John 14:23; Romans 8:9-10; Galatians 2:20; 3:26-29; Ephesians 3:17). Am I acting as Jesus acted? Am I teaching what Jesus taught?

Third, "Am I a reprobate?"

A "reprobate" person is someone who is not standing the test, not approved; thus, unfit and rejected. I can be reprobate (rejected) when I refuse God's knowledge (Romans 1:28), when I lack self-control (1 Corinthians 9:27), when I refuse to grow (Hebrews 6:8), when I withstand the truth (2 Timothy 3:8), and, when I act hypocritically (Titus 1:16).

Examine Yourself

Friend, one of the best things you can do for yourself is to examine yourself. David did (Psalm 119:59-60), Peter did (Mark 14:72), the prodigal son did (Luke 15:17), and the Corinthians did (2 Corinthians 7:8-11). Will you? Self-examination is the first step in doing what is right today! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- When you keep all your blessings for yourself, you do not bless others.
- Your bank account does not reflect your true worth.
- A religion that is not worth preaching, is not worth practicing.
- The road to ruin is broad, attractive, and easy to travel - for awhile.
- Bear one another's burdens.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Examine Yourself: An Often Neglected Command

“Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed ye be reprobate”
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 -

When Paul was closing his second recorded epistle to the Corinthians, he told the brethren to “try” (“examine”, KJV) themselves and “prove” themselves. This is a challenging thing to do. It is hard sometimes to examine ourselves to see if we are faithful. It is much easier to examine others.

Self-Examination At Corinth

Paul wanted the Corinthians to examine themselves in light of the truth of God’s word (2 Corinthians 13:5). The false teachers from without were influencing the Corinthian brethren to follow “another” Jesus (2 Corinthians 11:3-15). And, the carnal attitude from within was influencing the Corinthian brethren to the point of division (1 Cor. 1:10-11; 3:1-3; 11:19,28). The Corinthian brethren were in spiritual danger of being lost and so they needed to examine themselves.

What Will We Be Doing?

What will we be doing if we examine ourselves today like the Corinthians did? Well, the first thing we will do is “try” ourselves. “Try” (Greek *peirazete*), means “a trial, a test, in a good sense for the purpose of ascertaining quality.” We will test ourselves to see if we are faithful.

Next, we will “prove” ourselves. “Prove” (Greek *dokimazete*), means “test, examine, prove, scrutinize to see whether a thing is genuine or not.” We will take a close look at ourselves in light of God’s word. We will be willing to look at the details of our attitudes and actions to see if they conform to the teachings of God.

Finally, we will look at our own selves. This is important. There is a time to look at “your own selves” (Galatians 6:4), and there is a time to look at someone else (1 John 4:1; Revelation 2:2). Here, Paul wants us to look at our own selves as hard as that may be to do. Also, this self-examination is in the present tense. It is a continuous activity. It is something we do on a regular basis, not just one time and then forget about it.

What Standard Will We Use?

When we examine ourselves like the Corinthians did, what standard of judgment will we use to see if we are right

with God. Well, we will not use the subjective standard of self (Galatians 6:3; Romans 1:22; 1 Corinthians 8:2; Romans 12:3; 2 Corinthians 10:12,18). This standard can be biased and inaccurate. Neither will we use the relative standard of others (1 Corinthians 4:6). This standard is often changing. But, we will use the objective standard of God and his word – “the faith” (Proverbs 17:3; Zechariah 13:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:15). This standard is always fixed and accurate.

What Questions Will We Ask?

When Paul called upon the Corinthians to examine themselves, he wanted them to ask three questions to determine their faithfulness. We should ask ourselves the same three questions.

First, “Am I in the faith?”

As a Christian, am I faithfully living within the boundaries of God’s word (1 Timothy 4:16)? Am I remaining in the doctrine of Christ, or going beyond it (2 John 9)? There is an ever-present danger of drifting from the word of God, so I must always be vigilant (Hebrews 2:1; 1 Corinthians 10:12; 2