Examine Yourselves

2 Corinthians 13:5

4-28-2024

2 Cor. 13:5 - Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

When someone welcomes Jesus Christ into their lives (John 1:12), they become a born again child of God. With the New Birth comes new life.
A New Spirit enters our lives; A New Heart is given. A change occurs!
2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The New Covenant promises of God include:

God's <u>Word</u> written on our hearts – "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:33)

God's <u>Spirit</u> placed in our hearts - A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

As you will hear from the testimonies of tonight's Baptism candidates, sometimes God's Spirit would have us examine ourselves and be re-baptized if we find that our past profession of faith is somewhat cloudy; uncertain, or accompanied without the new life that God promised.

"Examine yourselves" – put yourselves to the test to see whether or not you are genuinely in the faith (i.e. in Christ and His saving Gospel). This is an examination none of us should avoid.

It would be better for a man to examine himself now than to find out later after death that he was never really in the faith.
Many in the Corinthian church who had succumbed to the sins of 12:20-21 had ample reason to examine their true spiritual status.

Can you imagine how foolish it would be for a man who has all the signs of stomach cancer or ulcers to do nothing about it; to have constant abdominal pain and to be spitting up blood and to go on his way thinking he's okay would be the height of folly. So, to be living in sin with no remorse or divine chastisement and to assume you're on your way to Heaven anyway is foolishness.

Some might say: "But Pastor, you're making me to doubt my salvation." Some of you have adequate reason to doubt your salvation. I'd rather have you doubt your salvation but have it, than to never entertain a doubt and not have it.

"Prove your own selves" - no one can do it for you. Look for Bible-based proof in your life that you are God's child.

Do you find yourself approved after examination?
"Know ye not . . ." – Do you know that Jesus Christ is in you?
Note: This is one of the clearest texts to sow that a person can know that Jesus Christ is living inside of his heart.
"Except ye be reprobates" – Christ is in you, unless you see after examining yourself that you are disapproved after testing (*adokimos*). My friend, don't be a reject by God!
2 Peter 1:10
Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

The little book of 1 John is given for the purpose that we might know that we have eternal life; Each chapter gives objective evidence for the New Birth; Proofs of salvation

Evidences of Genuine Salvation from the Epistle of 1 John

1. <u>Obedience</u> to God and a desire to be more obedient
1 John 2:3–5: And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. Compare: 1 John 3:24
The true believer will <u>grieve</u> over personal sin and if he/she persists this will be accompanied with chastisement by God.
Obedience will not be the perfection of our life but will be the direction of our life (John MacArthur)

2. A Lifestyle of <u>Righteousness</u>
1 John 2:29 - If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.
Spiritual <u>desire</u> for God's Word and a desire to follow it

3. A <u>New Nature</u> which does not practice sin
1 John 3:9: Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (practice) sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
Compare: 1 John 5:18

4. A <u>Love</u> for God and the Brethren
1 John 3:14: We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. Compare: 1 John 3:18-19;
1 John 4:7-8: Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Baptism: Does not save us; But is an opportunity to boldly declare our faith publicly; To unashamedly identify with Christ; To show whose side we are on.
Song: I have decided to follow Jesus
Nancy Amentastro
Heather Reid