

Self-Examination

II Corinthians 13:5-9

Introduction

- II Corinthians deals, in part, with the negative influence of false apostles, and their rejection of Paul
- cf. II Corinthians 11:12-15 – "... such men are false apostles ..."
- Paul wants the Corinthians to examine themselves, to see if they are truly faithful, and to know that he is too.
- Self-examination must be a continual activity of a faithful child of God
 - How may we be successful in this?

Persistent Prayer

Prayer intimately involves God

- Psalms 26:1-5 – "Prove me, O Lord, and try me"
- Psalms 139:1-6, 23-24 – "you have searched me and known me!"
- Revelation 8:3-4 – "... the prayers of the saints, rose before God ..."

Persistent Prayer

Prayer is an expression of desire for continued fellowship with God

- Psalms 26:6-12 – "in the great assembly I will bless the Lord"
- Our self-examination is not for:
 - Self-help, people pleasing, tallying up the good to outweigh the bad, avoiding consequences
- If we pray for God's involvement in our self-examination, we won't dismiss the findings but react accordingly

Objective Observation

Self-examination is only meaningful under the lamp of truth

- Psalms 119:102-105 – "Your word is a lamp to my feet ..."
- This is the objective standard we must use.
- John 1:1-5 – "... the life was the light of men"
- Looking within myself is only helpful if I'm utilizing God's word honestly

Objective Observation

Self-examination is only meaningful under the lamp of truth

- Israel's destruction came from ignoring the light of truth
 - Isaiah 2:5-8 – "let us walk in the light of the Lord"
- Israel loved their false prophets
 - Jeremiah 6:13-15 – "'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace"
- We must "adjust" ourselves to the divine standard

Objective Observation

God provided brethren as a pattern

- Proverbs 27:17 – "... one man sharpens another"
- We mustn't discount the example of righteous brethren
 - cf. I Corinthians 11:1 – "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ"
 - Philippians 3:14-17 – "... keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example ..."

Internal Honesty

Pursue self-examination through meditation on the Scriptures

- Psalms 1:1-2 – "... on his law he meditates ..."
- Philippians 4:8-9 – "think about these things"
- Psalms 4:4 – "ponder in your own hearts ..."
- Psalms 63:5-8 – "... meditate on you in the watches of the night"
- Joshua 1:8 – "you shall meditate on it"

Internal Honesty

Flee from self-deception

- James 1:22-25 – "deceiving yourselves"
- Galatians 2:20 – "... Christ who lives in me"
 - Am I truly living like a Christian should?

We need to have the courage to change

- Revelation 21:8 – "But as for the cowardly, the faithless ..."

Obeying The Gospel

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – "... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – "... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ..."

Obeying The Gospel

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Matthew 10:32-33 – "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven ..."

Obeying The Gospel

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – "Repent and be baptized every one of you ..."

Remain faithful

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 – "if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain"