

"EXAMINE YOURSELF TODAY"

1 CORINTHIANS 13:5

INTRO: There are many people in church today all around the world who "THINK" they are saved for one reason or another, but are fooled by their own thinking and Satan's deception. So to help you to focus on the reality of YOUR SALVATION I ask you these two questions:

1) HAVE YOU COME TO THE PLACE IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE WHERE YOU KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT IF YOU WERE TO DIE TODAY YOU WOULD GO TO HEAVEN?

2) SUPPOSE THAT YOU WERE TO DIE TODAY AND STAND BEFORE GOD AND HE WOULD SAY TO YOU, "WHY SHOULD I LET YOU INTO MY HEAVEN," WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

THESE TWO QUESTIONS lay the foundation of a PERSONAL EXAMINATION I encourage you to take this morning. 2 Corinthians 13:5 presents the challenge for the exam which will serve as the basis of our study today.

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NOTE: One significant consideration about 2 Corinthians 13:5 is that it is WRITTEN TO A LOCAL CHURCH AT CORINTH that faced a lot of spiritual issues and Paul was concerned about the salvation of the members there. THIS IS AN APPLICABLE TO EVERY CHURCH AND EVERY CHRISTIAN TODAY.

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ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED? (The family at Morningside Baptist)

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NOTE SOME SIGNIFICANT WORDS OF THE TEXT

- 1) "Examine" - To Put To The Test to make sure of Your Salvation.
- 2) "Faith" - To have Genuine Faith In Christ for Personal Salvation
- 3) "Prove" - To be Found Approved of God After the Test of Salvation
- 4) "Know" - To be Fully Persuaded without Any Doubt of Your Salvation
- 5) "Reprobates" - To be Rejected by God due to the lack of Salvation

CAN YOU SAY THIS VERY MOMENT THAT YOU ARE IN THE FAITH?

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-EXAMINATION

- A. It Demonstrates Your Genuineness of Faith
-Reveals whether your faith is REAL or FALSE
- B. It Determines Your Eternal Destiny
 1. Without Salvation You will go to Hell
-Luke 16:23
 2. With Salvation You will go to Heaven
-2 Corinthians 5:1,8
- C. It Dictates Your Peace with God
-Romans 5:1

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE INGREDIENTS OF SELF-EXAMINATION

- A. The Word of God - 1 John 5:11-13
- B. The Spirit of God - Romans 8:16
- C. The Conduct of Life - 1 John 2:3-5

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE ISSUES OF SELF-EXAMINATION

- A. The Negative Issue
-Through SELF-EXAMINATION You will find that YOU ARE NOT SAVED!
- B. The Positive Issue
-Through SELF-EXAMINATION You will find that YOU ARE SAVED!

ILLUSTRATION:

SERIOUS AND CHALLENGING SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER

- 1) Matthew 7:21-23
- 2) Luke 13:23-28
- 3) 2 Corinthians 6:2

LESSON/CONCLUSION

THE FACTS ARE VERY CLEAR ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE:

- If you are saved, all of your sins are forgiven and you are on your way to Heaven this very moment!
- If you are not saved, your sins are not forgiven and are on your way to Hell this very moment!.

SO: ARE YOU TRULY SAVED OR NOT?

-TO BE SAVED MEANS TO BE DELIVERED FROM SIN, IT'S POWER, IT'S PENALTY AND IT'S PRESENCE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE. IS THAT YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION RIGHT NOW?

ROMANS 10:13

"FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED"

DOES THIS VERSE DESCRIBE YOU RIGHT NOW?

HAVE YOU CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD TO SAVE YOU?

IF SO, REJOICE OVER YOUR SINS FORGIVEN.

IF NOT, RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR NOW!