

EXAM TIME
DECEMBER 31, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

As we begin a new year, it's a great time to examine ourselves to discover our spiritual condition.

LAMENTATIONS 3:40-41 (ESV) - Jeremiah instructed the people to examine themselves and turn back to God. **1 CORINTHIANS 11:28 (AMPC)** - We are to examine ourselves before having communion.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5 (NKJV) - Examining our spiritual condition should be an ongoing activity. This advice should raise some questions.

1. Why examine ourselves?

- A.** To be sure we're in the faith. Nothing is more important than our salvation. We are to examine ourselves to be sure we are saved and following God's will. Deception is Satan's main weapon.
 - Church attendance, right moral conduct, water baptism, head knowledge of the Bible, being involved in church work are all good things, but these things don't save us.
- B.** To be sure Christ is in us. **COLOSSIANS 1:27** - Christ in us is our only hope of future glory. **ROMANS 8:9-13 (ESV)** - We want to be certain we pass this very important test.
- C.** To be sure we're not disqualified. Reprobate means disqualified, or we fail the test of being in the faith and Christ being in us.
- D.** To know our spiritual condition. **JAMES 1:22-25 (AMPC)** – We are not to fall into the trap of self-deception.

2. What standard do we use?

- A.** Not by our own standards. **LUKE 18:10-14 (NLT)** – At one-time Paul thought killing Christians pleased God just as this man thought he was right with God. **2 CORINTHIANS 10:18 (ESV)**
- B.** Not by others standards. **1 CORINTHIANS 4:3-4 (AMPC)** – A man once told me I'll make Heaven if I'm good. Wrong standard!
- C.** By God's Word. **JOHN 12:44-48 (ESV)**, **2 TIMOTHY 3:15 (AMPC)** – Only God's Word provides the right standard.

3. What questions should we ask ourselves?

- A.** Have I received Christ? **JOHN 1:10-12**, **JOHN 3:3-7**
- B.** Do I have the Spirits' witness? **ROMANS 8:16 (ESV)**
- C.** Do I possess the marks of true discipleship?
 - Love - **1 JOHN 3:14 (AMPC)**, **1 JOHN 4:7-8 (ESV)**
 - Fruit-bearing - **JOHN 15:5**
 - Good works - **EPHESIANS 2:8-10**, **TITUS 2:14**
 - Holiness - **1 PETER 1:14-16 (GW)**, **HEBREWS 12:14 (GW)**
 - Desire – **1 PETER 2:2 (AMPC)**, **PSALMS 63:1-3**
- D.** What am I passionate about? **PROVERBS 6:16-19**
 - God hates: pride because He's humble; lying because He's truthful; killing because He's for life; wicked plans because He's not devious; evil because He's good; false testimonies because His testimony is true; discord because He stands for unity.
- E.** Are my thoughts and attitudes changing for the better?
EPHESIANS 4:23 (TLB) – Our minds need renewed, and we all need delivered from our corrupt way of thinking.
- F.** Do I measure my conduct by the standard of God's Word? **PSALMS 119:9 (ISV)**

CONCLUSION:

By examining **OURSELVES** we can locate ourselves spiritually, promote our own spiritual growth, align ourselves with God's will, and avoid being critical of others.