

EXAMINING OURSELVES JANUARY 2, 2022

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

Examine means to inspect in detail to determine the nature or condition of something; to investigate thoroughly. In context, Paul was advising them to examine themselves to determine their spiritual condition. In other words, to do a self-evaluation, or self-searching. Paul knew the value of examining ourselves so that we're not deceived about our true spiritual condition.

PSALMS 139:23-24

David adds the need to appeal to God for help when performing a self-evaluation. Why? Because He knows us better than we know ourselves. Remember the example of Peter's denial?

- **REVELATION 3:14-19** Note the big contrast between their view of themselves and how Jesus viewed them. Their view: prosperous, self-sufficient and successful. Jesus' view: wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. It's the only church Jesus had nothing good to say about. In verse 18 He counsels them to get three things from Him: gold tried by fire (faith); white garments (to cover their spiritual nakedness); and eye ointment (to cure spiritual blindness). Gold, garments and eye salve were their chief exports.
- **LUKE 6:41-42 (MSG)** Jesus addresses being critical of the faults of others and being judgmental. He points out hypocrisy and its remedy.
- **LUKE 12:16-21** Jesus addresses plan making without God that leads to presumption and arrogance. He came up with his own plan. He presumed he would live long enough to retire and enjoy life for years to come. God was not part of the equation. He had no intentions of blessing others or advancing the Kingdom. Money was his God.

JAMES 4:13-17 (AMPC)

James addresses making plans without God. Why? Because we don't know what tomorrow may bring. We don't know everything and we're not in control of everything. We are not God. Three things are emphasized.

1. Don't boast. Our lives are fragile and short. **PROVERBS 27:1, PSALMS 39:4** God wants us to appreciate every day we live and not take one moment for granted.
2. Trust God. **JAMES 4:15 (MSG)** We need to trust God enough to be submissive to His plan and will. Paul was: **ACTS 18:21, 1 CORINTHIANS 4:19, 16:7** God wants to order the steps of our lives.
3. Live in humble obedience to God. **JAMES 4:16-17 HSCB)** Instead of submitting to God, they trusted in themselves. This God views as arrogance. **JAMES 4:6-7**

CONCLUSION:

This life is but a quick dash between our date of birth and death. One day soon this life will be over. By living for the Lord today and trusting Him for tomorrow, we are guaranteed to reap the reward of eternal glory!