

EXAMINING OURSELVES – 3
JANUARY 16, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

The Corinthians were highly critical of Paul. They criticized his age, writing style, speech, appearance, even his apostleship. Paul responded by writing two letters admonishing them to examine their own lives instead of criticizing others (**1 CORINTHIANS 11:28** and **2 CORINTHIANS 13:5**).

1 CORINTHIANS 11:28

Alfred Barnes commentary on examining ourselves before observing the Lord's supper. On Wednesday I shared how the Jews in Isaiah's day were told their observance of fasting and sabbath keeping was a shallow empty show with no spiritual substance behind it. God used Isaiah to correct them. Paul was doing the same thing as Isaiah did.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

Three points are made: examine, prove, and know. **JEREMIAH 17:9, DEUTERONOMY 8:2** God wanted them to know the true condition of their hearts.

1. Examine themselves to determine they are born again. There were professing and possessing Christians then, as there are today. Putting a cross in our home, car, or on our desk at work, doesn't make one a Christian. One can believe in gopher wood and design of the Ark from stem to stern, but only those in the Ark were saved. Are we truly in Christ?
 - A. **PROVERBS 16:25** Many are deceived because they don't examine what they believe. Scientology teaches there is no heaven or hell.
2. Prove your own selves. Prove is a stronger word than examine. We can examine an axe by looking at it and its construction, but to prove it, we take it into the woods to verify its performance. The proof of the ice cream is in the eating. What proves discipleship?
 - A. **JOHN 8:31** "Continue in the word that is mine."
 - B. **1 JOHN 3:14** Love is proof of our passing from death to life. **1 JOHN 4:7-8**.
 - C. **JOHN 14:21** Obedience.
 - D. **TITUS 2:11-13** Living soberly, righteously, godly.
3. Know yourselves.
 - A. **PSALMS 139:1-6** Meaning either the knowledge of himself, such as God had of him, which was superior to what he had of himself; and especially of the knowledge of other persons and things, whether visible or invisible, in heaven, earth, or hell; things past, present, and to come; or else the manner in which God knew all this was amazing to him...that he did know his thoughts, his words and actions, and so those of all others...how he should know all this was past his conception, and struck him with the profoundest admiration; it is high, sublime, out of his reach, beyond his comprehension (Gill).

CLOSING: We're all told to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Through scrutinizing ourselves frequently, we can be sure we are living our lives to honor God and promote our own spiritual growth.