

SELF EVALUATION AND REFLECTION

DECEMBER 31, 2023

2 COR. 13:5 NLT

Self-evaluation is a spiritual practice that challenges us to take an objective look at our spiritual condition to determine our spiritual progress. This practice helps us to see how far we've come and reveals areas that need improvement.

- **LUKE 6:46** A wise man makes Jesus Lord, not just Savior.
- **LUKE 6:40-42 AMPC** It's easier to see the character flaws of others instead of our own. By evaluating ourselves, we promote our spiritual growth and become less critical of others.

Legacy (1) 2 CHRON. 21:20 NLT

The Message Bible says: "There were no tears when he died-it was good riddance!" Jehoram's idolatry, viciousness, and general wickedness brought upon him an incurable disease. At the end of two years of intense suffering he died, unmourned, and despised by his own people.

Legacy (2) ACTS 9:36-42 NLT

Dorcas wasn't a queen and didn't hold a lofty position in society. She was a seamstress and Godly woman who cared for widows. Through her actions, people saw God's love at work. At her death, people mourned deeply. Her character impacted the people in a positive way.

- **ECCL. 7:1, PR. 10:7 MSG** What will our legacy be? Jehoram had a greater position than Dorcas. He had the potential to influence many for God; but chose not to. Probably for personal gain or self-promotion. His reputation produced a stench, while Dorcas' produced the fragrance of a fine perfume. She was a true disciple of Christ.
- **LAM. 3:40 NLT** The Message says: "Let's take a good look at the way we're living and reorder our lives under God."
- **GAL. 6:1-5 AMPC, MSG** Evaluating ourselves requires God's help and a humble attitude (**PS. 139:1-6 MSG, 23-24 MSG**).

Guidance from the Ten Commandments

- 1.) God (**EX. 20:3**). Is God first place in my life? Is this an area we need to improve on? **LUKE 14:26** God desires first place.
- 2.) True worship (**EX. 20:4**). The desire for God to be different than who He is, is idolatry. It shows discontent for who He is and what He does. **1 COR. 6:19-20** "My body, my choice" is a fallacy – a

mistaken belief. Our body belongs to God. **1 COR. 7:1-5** Even in marriage, it's not "My body, my choice!"

- 3.) Bearing God's Name (**EX. 20:7**). This goes beyond verbal use of His Name. We are His ambassadors bearing His Name before the world. If secular corporations expect their employees to bear their name well, how much more does God expect us to represent His Name in a way that makes people want what we have? **ACTS 9:13-16** Paul was greatly persecuted for bearing His Name (**MT. 5:11-12**).
- 4.) Time, work, and rest (**EX. 20:8-11**). God established a pattern for time, work, and rest in creation. It's a template. There's a time to work, rest, and worship. How balanced are we in these areas? What adjustments can we make to honor God to honor this commandment?
HEB. 10:19-25

Conclusion: To be continued!