

“Examine Yourselves!”
2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Introduction:

1. Do You Have Assurance Of Your Salvation This Morning?
 - Are You Certain That You Are:
 - “In The Faith” And Are On Your Way To Heaven:
 - When You Die?
 - The Bible Tells Us That A True Christian **Can** Have This Kind Of Assurance!
 - Even As John Wrote In 1 John 5:13 - “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God!”
 - So - It Is **Possible** For You To Have Assurance!
 - But - Do You? Personally?
 - And What Is The Proof Of Your Assurance?
 - What Is The Evidence?
 - This Is What We Will Consider This Morning:
2. As We Head Back In Our Bibles:
 - To 2 Corinthians 13 - Where We Are Getting Close:
 - To The End Of **Our** Series:
 - Even As The Apostle Paul Is Coming To A Close:
 - In His Inspired Letter To This Ancient Corinthian Church!
 - And Even Toward The Very End Of This Letter, Paul Is Still:
 - Having To Address The Church About:
 - The Sin & Error That Remains Within The Church!
 - Because Sin Is An Obstacle To Assurance In A Christian’s Heart & Life!
 - **Paul** Was Even Beginning To Wonder About & Doubt:
 - Their True Connection To Christ!
 - And So, Paul’s Been Warning Them - That If They Do Not Repent & Return To The Lord:
 - When He Makes His Third Visit With Them - He Will Have To Initiate Church Discipline - And, In The Words Of 13:2 - He “Will Not Spare!”
2. But - This Is Not How Paul Wants To End This Letter!
 - Nor Is It How Paul Wants To Begin His Next Visit With Them!
 - Because - As Their Spiritual Father:
 - He Wants To Be There For Them:
 - Not For Discipline!
 - But For Mutual Fellowship & Edification!
 - And So - As We Come To Just 2 Verses This Morning:
 - The Apostle Paul Tells Them:
 - Just How They Should Prepare For His Arrival!
 - Instead Of Looking At Him:
 - And Examining **His** Character & Conduct!
 - They Need To:
 - “Examine Themselves!”
 - Looking At:
 - 13:5-6 - “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? / But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates!”
 - In Verse 5 - Paul Gives This Command:
 - To “Examine Yourselves” - Because He Knows That It Can Provide All The Evidence They Were Looking For That Christ Was, Indeed, “Speaking In” And Through Him! (13:3)
 - And Yet - This Command Still Applies To Every Christian & To Every Church
 - And Will Be Our Focus This Morning!
 - In Order To Have Assurance - Paul Gives To Us:
1. **A Personal Call – To Examine Yourself!**
 - In The First Part Of 13:5 - We Learn The Importance:

- Of A Personal & Regular Examination:
 - Of Our Hearts & Lives!
 - 13:5a - “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves!”
 - 3 Times In This Verse - Paul Calls Us To Look Within - To Our Own Selves! Because The Examination He Is Calling Us To Is:
- A Personal Examination!
 - It Is True - That Paul Is Addressing The Church As A Whole, But The Church As A Whole Is Made Up Of Individual Christians!
 - And Each One Of Us Needs To Examine Ourselves & Possess The Right Kind Of Assurance:
 - Of Our Relationship With Jesus Christ!
 - But What Are We To Examine?
- The Priority Of Our Examination:
 - Is This - “Examine Yourselves, Whether Ye Be In The Faith!”
 - **IE:** There Are All Sorts Of Tests That You Take In Life - To See If You Are Ready For Something! There Are Tests You Take To See If You Are Ready For The Next Grade In School! There Are Tests You Take To See If You Are Ready For College - Like The SAT Or The ACT! There Are Tests You Take To See If You Are Ready For A Job! Once Had To Take A Color Test! There Are Tests You Take To See If You Are Ready For Retirement!
 - But Have You Ever Tested Yourself To See If You Are Ready For Heaven & Eternal Life?
 - This Is The Kind Of Test That Paul Is Talking About! And It Is The Most Important Test You Will Ever Take In Your Life!
 - “Examine Yourself – Test Yourself – Whether Ye Be In The Faith!”
 - Because If You Fail This Test - None Of The Tests That You Have Passed In This Life & In This World:
 - Will Matter At All! And So This Test Ought To Take Priority! As Jesus Said - Matthew 16:26 - “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
 - So - Here’s The Question:
 - Are You “In The Faith?”
 - Not - Do You Have Faith?
 - Because There Is A Lot Of Faith Out There That Cannot & Will Not Save You! James 2:19 - “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble!”
 - Are You “In The Faith” That Saves?
 - To Be “In The Faith” Means That:
 - You Truly Believe In:
 - The Object Of This Faith - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And All His Claims!
 - To Be “In The Faith” Means That:
 - You Truly Belong To:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - That Is - He Abides In You & You Abide In Him! “The Faith” Is All-Encompassing In Your Life! Not Just A Passing Interest!
 - To Be “In The Faith” Means That:
 - You Have Been Truly Baptized Into:
 - Christ - Through His Holy Spirit!
 - And Now There Is Evidence & Proof Of His Abiding Presence In Your Life!
 - You & I Need To Make This Kind Of Examination:
 - A Priority In Our Lives!
 - But How Do We Go About Doing It? See:
- The Proof Of Our Examination:
 - As You “Examine” Yourself & “Prove” Your Own Self:
 - You Will Find Certain Qualities In Your Life:
 - That Reveal Christ In Your Life!
 - **IE:** Its Not Unlike The DNA Tests That People Are Taking To Help Them See Where They Are From & The Families They Belong To! Take A Swab & Send It In - Get A Chart To See What Different

Nationalities Make Up You!

- The Bible Will Reveal To You Different Christian DNA Markers To Show If You Are Part Of The Family Of God & Are Spiritually Related To Jesus Christ!
 - Markers Like Obedience & Love & Grace & Perseverance! There Will Be A Family Resemblance With Other Christians & With Jesus Christ Himself!
- So - Each One Of Us Needs To Hear & Heed This Call This Morning! "Examine yourself, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own self!"
 - This Is The Only Way For You To Have Assurance!
 - But Then - We Also Find:

2. *A Personal Conclusion!*

- From This Spiritual Self-Examination!
 - Paul Did Not Give The Christians In Corinth This Call & Command To "Examine Themselves" To Get Them To Doubt!
 - No! He Wanted Them To Come To A Personal Conclusion Of **Assurance!**
 - 13:5b - "Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you!"
 - Paul Wants Them To See In Themselves What He Saw In Them! That There **Was** Genuine Spiritual Life - Because There **Was** Genuine Faith!
 - Paul Wants Them & Us To Have Assurance!
 - Assurance Of The Power Of The Lord:
 - In Your Life!
 - That "Jesus" Himself Is In You!
 - The Name Of Jesus Means "Savior!"
 - When There Is Spiritual DNA In Your Life - It Means That Jesus Himself Has Saved You From Your Sin & Is Still Using His Omnipotent Power To Sanctify You & Continue To Rescue You From The Power Of Sin Itself!
 - You Can **Know** The Power Of The Lord:
 - In Your Life! Do You?
 - There Also Can Be:
 - Assurance Of The Promise Of The Lord:
 - In Your Life!
 - Because "Jesus The Christ" Is In You!
 - He Was The Long-Ago Promised & Long-Awaited Messiah:
 - Who Came To Be Your Substitute & Die On The Cross For Your Sin!
 - And He Is The Object Of Your Faith!
 - Because He Is The Object Of "The Faith!"
 - You Can **Know** The Promise & Promises Of The Lord:
 - In Your Life! Do You?
 - There Can Also Be:
 - Assurance Of The Presence Of The Lord:
 - In Your Life!
 - Again - 13:5b - "Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ **is in you!**"
 - As A Christian - When You Start To "Examine Yourself" - Your Eyes Cannot Help But Turn From Yourself To Your Savior! Because It Is His Life That Is In You! **IE:** Even As Paternity Tests Prove Who The Parents Are Of A Child - Not Just Relying On The Resemblance - Not Just Looking At The Child But At The Parents!
 - So It Is With A True Christian!
 - Our Assurance:
 - "Our Certainty Dependeth Not Upon Our Will Or Works, But Upon The Promise Of God Through Faith, That Christ Is In Us, And We In Him, Therefore We Shall Not Miss The Performance Of His Promises!" (Fulke)
 - The Results Of Our Self-Examination:
 - Is Not To Prove:
 - How Much You Know About The Lord!
 - But To Show How Much The Lord:
 - Is In You!
 - Even As Paul Says:
 - In Galatians 2:20 - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in

me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me!”

- You Can **Know**:
 - The Power & The Promises & The Very Presence:
 - Of Christ In Your Life!
 - Do You?
 - If “Jesus Christ Is In You” - Then:
 - You Will Also See:
 - His Mind In Your Mind!
 - His Work In Your Work!
 - His Joy In Your Joy!
 - His Spirit In Your Spirit!
 - His Word In Your Words!
- May This Be The Conclusion:
 - Of Your Own Heart’s Examination!
 - May You Be Assured:
 - And “Know Your Own Self, That Jesus Christ Is In You!”
 - But What If You Don’t Come To This Conclusion?
 - What If You Can’t? There Remains:

3. ***A Personal Concern!***

- At The End Of 13:5 - “Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”
 - The Word “Reprobate” Here Means:
 - Someone Who Has Not Passed The Test:
 - And Who Is Not Approved!
 - But - This Cannot Mean Their Own Approval!
 - It Has To Point To The One Who Already Knows All The Answers To The Test!
 - It Has To Point To:
 - Not Their Own Personal Assessment:
 - Of Their Spiritual Condition:
 - But God’s!
 - So - Paul Shows His Concern:
 - About Their Failure:
 - Of This Test!
 - God Himself Is The One Who Will Grade The Test:
 - To See If Someone Is “In The Faith!”
 - We Need To Take The Test:
 - But He Is The One Who Grades It!
 - And He Does Not Grade On The Curve!
 - Because For Someone To Truly Be:
 - “In The Faith” - They Must Also Be:
 - “In The Fold” Of Christ!
 - And The Way In:
 - Is Very Exclusive!
 - John 10:7-9 - “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. / All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. / I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture!”
 - John 14:6 - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!”
 - This Is God’s Condition:
 - To Pass The Test!
 - And If You Are “Reprobate” Or “Not Approved” By God - You Will Not Know & You Cannot Be Assured - That Christ Is In You!
 - But Paul Was Also Concerned:
- About Their Fruit!
 - Because If Jesus Christ Is In You:

- You Will Bear Spiritual, Christ-Like Fruit!
 - Using Another Illustration - Jesus Taught In John 15:1-8 - "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. / Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. / Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. / Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. / I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. / If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. / If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. / Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples!"
- This Spiritual Fruit:
 - Is The Evidence That "Jesus Christ Is In You!"
 - And Will Provide Assurance:
 - That You Are "In The Faith!"
- Is There Spiritual Fruit:
 - In Your Life?
 - There Is Final Fruit That Paul Wants To Focus On:
 - Especially For The Corinthian Church!
 - And That Is:

4. ***A Personal Confirmation!***

- Of Their Relationship With & Approval From The Lord!
 - 13:6 - "But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates!"
 - Even Though Christian Faith:
 - And Self-Examination Is A Very Personal Thing:
 - Yet - It Is Also A Very Public Thing - Within The Church As A Whole!
 - Paul Himself Sought A Confirmation:
 - Of His Own Message & Ministry:
 - From The Corinthians!
 - Because - He Believed That It Would Lead To:
 - Greater Certainty!
 - And Assurance Of The Truth!
 - Paul Was "Hoping" That They Would Come To "Know" The Truth About Him!
 - Remember Back In 13:3 - Some Were "Seeking A Proof Of Christ Speaking In Me!"
 - But All The Proof They Needed:
 - Was The Assurance That Jesus Christ Was In Them:
 - Through Their Faith In The Gospel:
 - That Paul Had Preached To Them!
 - And This Certainty About The Truth:
 - Would Also Lead to:
 - Greater Communion:
 - And Fellowship With Each Other:
 - As Christians!
 - This Is What Paul Was After!
 - In Spite Of All That Was Said:
 - And Done Against Him:
 - He Continually Pursued After Communion & Fellowship:
 - With Them - In Love & Unity & Peace!
 - There Still Ought To Be This Desire:
 - For Confirmation Of Our Faith:
 - With Other Believers & In The Body Of Christ!
 - This Is Why We Are Told - In Hebrews 10:25 - "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching!"
 - As You Examine Yourself:
 - You Will Find Assurance:
 - From Christ & Through His Church!

Conclusion:

1. So - "Examine Yourself" - Today - "Whether Ye Be In The Faith!"
 - And Why Should You Do This?
 - Because - If You Are True Christian:
 - It Is Not Meant To Lead You:
 - To Greater Doubt!
 - But To Greater Assurance & Confidence & Confirmation!
2. But With This Assurance:
 - Will Come A Renewed Desire:
 - To - As We Will See Next Week - From 13:7:
 - "Do No Evil!"
 - Because Sin Is Always An Obstacle:
 - To Assurance In Your Life As A Christian!
 - So - "Examine Yourself!"
 - And May You Find:
 - "Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!" (Colossians 1:27)

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