

January 31, 2021

Self-Examination

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

2 Corinthians 13:5: *Examine your own selves, whether you are in the faith. Test your own selves. Or don't you know as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified.*

In the above verse, the Holy Spirit through Paul commands Christians to examine ourselves. This is a responsibility *each* of us has.

What can be much easier than examining oneself is examining *others*. While Scripture does not demean the importance of helping others make needed correction, the one each of us should foremost examine is *self*.

This is the key teaching in the first five verses of **Matthew 7**. After saying, "***Judge not, that ye be not judged***" in **verse 1**, our Lord explains what He means by this in the next few verses. His point is summarized in **verse 5**, which says, "***You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.***"

In other words, help others receive the cure for sin (cf. **Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20**), but look in the mirror *first*.

When "looking in the mirror" to examine oneself, it's important to do so according to *God's* standards, rather

Self-Examination

(Continued)

than using the standards of the world.

Part of the Holy Spirit's "**charge**" for "**those who are rich in this present world**" in **1 Timothy 6:17-19** is "**that they not be arrogant.**" While humility is essential for *everyone*, it is easy to have an inflated view of self based upon earthly successes. Possessions, popularity, prestige, accomplishments, and the like can give one a false sense of security if this is the "standard" used in examining oneself (cf. **Rev. 3:17**).

The same could be said for self-examination that is based on comparing oneself to *other people*.

In **2 Corinthians 10:12**, Paul said, "**For we are not bold to number or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves. But they themselves, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding.**"

Looking to others' *positive* examples can be helpful (**Heb. 13:7**). This is far different, though, from the "self-examination" condemned in **2 Corinthians 10:12**. Such is a recipe for self-righteousness and self-deception (cf. **Luke 18:11**). Whether or not we are right with God is not based on how we measure up to other fallible people, but how we measure up to the perfect standard of God's Word and our Savior.

When we examine ourselves in view of God's perfect standard, we must do so with *honesty*. To see ourselves as God does, we must have a sincere approach to self-evaluation, instead of a pre-determined conviction that we have nothing to change.

Such sincerity is exemplified by the Bereans in **Acts 17:11**. These Bereans are said to be "**more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**" The Bereans' nobility is explained by their "**readiness of mind,**" a mark of their sincere desire to know the truth. Notice their simple purpose in examining the Scripture: "**to see whether these things were so.**" Like the Bereans, we must seek to know and practice what is right, whether it agrees with prior convictions or not. Such honesty is crucial to profitable self-examination, and should be applied to *all* of God's truth.

The Word of God provides the spiritual nourishment we need to grow as we must (**1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18**) and make needed corrections (**2 Tim. 3:16**). We must enable this growth, though, by examining ourselves in light of His Word with a sincere desire to let God mold us and make us according to His will.

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

“For we don't have here an enduring city, but we seek that which is to come. Through Him, then, let's offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which proclaim allegiance to His name. But don't forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
– Hebrews 13:14-16

“Therefore prepare your minds for action, be sober, and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ –”
– 1 Peter 1:13

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger S
Jeanette's Grandson, Oliver
L.A. S (COVID recovery)
Justice G (Perthes disease)

Daily Bible Reading

January 31 – Ezekiel 27-29; 1 Peter 3
February 1 – Ezekiel 30-32; 1 Peter 4
February 2 – Ezekiel 33-34; 1 Peter 5
February 3 – Ezekiel 35-36; 2 Peter 1
February 4 – Ezekiel 37-39; 2 Peter 2
February 5 – Ezekiel 40-41; 2 Peter 3
February 6 – Ezekiel 42-44; 1 John 1

“All flesh is like grass, and all of man's glory like the flower in the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls; but the Lord's Word endures forever.” – 1 Peter 1:24-25

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: John

Evening:

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Assignments

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Reading: Jim

Announcements:

Table: Steve

Serve: Jeff

Mason

Clean Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Invitation:

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

evening Bible classes are temporarily

suspended, due to effects of COVID

Anniversaries

Birthdays

February 2 – Travis

February 13 – Darrell

February 15 – Dan D

February 20 – Jeff

February 23 – Larry

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy