

We Should Examine Ourselves

II Corinthians 13:5- 14

5/12/02

Intro

- Mission's auction.
- Mother's Day. Update on my mom, and things I've learned from my mother...
 - Make the most of what you've got.
 - Don't gossip.
 - Don't be a complainer.
 - Never give up.

.....
As Paul finishes this letter to the church in Corinth, he gives them a last set of things to consider.

There have been a group of people in the church that have made themselves out to be "super apostles" and have brought false teaching into the church. They have even gone so far as to cast doubt on Paul's ministry and apostleship, even though Paul founded the church. Paul says to them; examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. That right there proves he is an apostle of Christ.

In these last verses Paul wants them to face one final set of things to consider before he comes. He would like the church healthy so he can enjoy his visit and not deal with these problems when he arrives.

Here Paul asks them to examine themselves, and we do well to do the same thing.

I. It is good to examine ourselves, to see if we are in the faith.

Vs 5 A. **Here are some things that do not mean that you are in the faith...**

- Attending a Christian church.

Illus- Someone once said that going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than being in a garage makes you a car.

- Living according to a certain moral standard. (This doesn't make us a Christian because it can easily be put on for the benefit of others.)
- Consistently reading your Bible.

B. No one else can do this examining for us.

- Paul says, "Examine yourselves."
- It is impossible to judge another man's soul.

See Romans 14: 4, 10-13. Each of us must give an account of himself before God.

C. So how can I know that I am saved?

Rom 8:16

- The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. We identify God as our Father in a family relationship. We say, "Abba Father."

Rom 5:1

- We have peace with God. The sense of conflict with God is ended, the war is over. The issue of sin has been resolved. We are going to heaven when we die, because of gift of Jesus Christ.

I Peter 2:2

- We desire the milk of the Word that we may grow.

Illus – The Word of God ministers to our soul like nothing else. We desire to be satisfied with the manna of the soul. In times of difficulty there’s nothing like the Psalms to minister to the soul.

- There is a deep desire for righteousness in the heart.

Illus – A Christian may at times fall into sin, but he does not truly desire this in his heart of hearts.

- And most important of all...

II. Jesus Christ is in us.

Vs 5

A. This is one of the greatest truths of our Christian faith; that Christ is in us.

- We don’t have to try an extract the sap from the vine, the very source of life is within us.
- We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ.

B. Ands we are in Jesus Christ!!

- We have been baptized into Jesus Christ.
- We have been crucified with Christ.
- The life that I now live, I live by faith...

C. This is how we received forgiveness of sin and the righteousness of God.

III. May we also be made complete.

Vs 7, 9, 11

A. Paul says, “We pray to God that you do the right thing.”

- Does it matter what we do anymore?
- We live in an age of tolerance, where a person will be judged if they adhere to principles of right and wrong.

Illus – If you were going into surgery, would it matter to you if the surgeon knew right from wrong in surgery? “Don’t be so hung up about credentials, man, I love you, dude.”

B. Be made complete – be filled up by the Spirit of God.

- And then walk by the Spirit.
- Live by faith.

Ephesians 4:17-32

Conclusion

We should examine ourselves to be sure that we are sincere in Christ, but we should not stop there. Let us be made complete – be filled up with the Spirit of God. Walk in the truth.