

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study  
July 16, 2020**

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**Topic: "Uncomfortable Questions That Are Healthy to Ask Yourself"**

**Scripture Reference: 2 Cor. 13:5a**

**"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; ..."**

**I. Introduction and Context [Part I]**

A. From time to time we need to examine ourselves to see if we are truly in the faith. Faith (Gr. *Pistis*) refers here not to the subjective element of belief (i.e., not one's personal opinions or beliefs) but to the objective body of Christian truth.

B. The Corinthians, prompted by the evil insinuations of the false apostles, had demanded proof of Paul's apostleship. He reluctantly defended himself, not for his own sake, but for the Lord's, and so the Corinthians would not be cut off from the truth he preached to them.

C. In this passage, Paul turned the tables on his accusers and challenged them to **examine** and **test** themselves. The Greek text places the pronouns before the verbs for emphasis and literally reads, "**Yourselves test to see if you are in the faith; yourselves examine.**"

D. Instead of arrogantly and foolishly challenging the genuineness of Paul's relationship to the Lord, the Corinthians needed to examine the genuineness of their own salvation. This is the context of the passage.

E. With an understanding of the context of this passage, this study is not designed to question **if** you are saved, but rather for us to examine ourselves in some specific areas of our lives, that should give evidence of the Lord Jesus Christ being a priority, now that we **ARE** saved.

E. Therefore, as we embark upon this study, let us honestly examine ourselves. In doing so, it will give us the opportunity to ask God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, if things are not right, to get right and stay right with God.

## II. Introduction [Part II]

A. The New Testament terms (Gr. *peirazo* (**test**) and (Gr. *dokimazo* (**examine**)) are used in this passage synonymously. That is, they convey the idea of putting something to the test to determine its genuineness.

B. Examine here refers to an *intense examination*. This could be a

test based on a question, or a test that includes some type of ***self-examination***. A test of ***self-examination*** is the most pain-free test, even if you must ask yourself questions that require answers that are uncomfortable to confront.

C. Let's do a little self-examining and please, be honest with yourself and remember, God knows your heart. The questions that follow are designed to help us consider possible areas where a change is needed. If so, ask the Lord to change you for your good and His Glory! Let's get started.

### **III. What Do You Give To God Financially?**

A. Since actions speak louder than words, examine your financial giving and consider what it reveals about whom you love most.

1. Do you give unto the Lord systematically, proportionally, and voluntarily or do you make excuses for not giving, and use the money for personal pleasure or other things?

**For deeper consideration:** Being completely honest, what would you say that your giving reveals about your love for God?

### **IV. What Do You Do With Your Time?**

A. Do you make spending time with God a top priority in your life or do you complain that you do not have time to pray or read the Bible?

B. Considering the above question, do you somehow make lots of

time to talk with friends, watch television and do other things that you want to do?

**A deeper thought question:** When God looks at your life and measures what you love most by the things you dedicate your time to, what would He say?

#### **V. What Does Your Lifestyle Reveal About Your Priorities?**

A. Does your daily lifestyle reveal that you love entertainment, pleasure, comfort, and happiness the most?

B. Are you consumed with yourself and your own needs and desires, and because of this, you offer no service to anyone else? Or, if it requires you to sacrifice your time, energy, or comfort, will you do so?

**A deeper question for reflection:** If God made a comment about your lifestyle, would He say?

#### **VI. What Personal Sacrifice(s) Do You Make to Serve The Lord?**

A. How long has it been since you gave something up or changed your schedule to help someone else?

B. Can you honestly say that you are picking up your cross (i.e., doing what pleases God in spite of perceived hardships or circumstances) and dying to your own interest, in order to serve others and make a difference in someone else's life?

C. If you were standing before Almighty God today, and He

opened the record book to examine your record, would the record reveal that you care deeply for God and you have lived in obedience to His commands?

D. Or, would the record show that you have been unwilling to inconvenience your life in any way or sacrifice any of your private plans?

**VII. When You Pray, What Do You Pray about? Do You Pray About Yourself Only, or Do You Pray for the Needs of Others that You are Aware of?**

A. It is so easy to take our own needs and desires before the Lord, but how often do you focus your prayers on the concerns of others?

**VIII. Questions for Further Consideration and Reflection**

A. Did any of the above questions stir you to self-examination and repentance, or, did they provoke anger? If anger, why?

B. Did the Holy Spirit cause you to pause on any of the questions to reflect more deeply?

C. What area(s) do you feel the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about that you need to address and change?

**IX. Interactive Time**

A. As always, I try to make our study sessions as interactive as possible. With that in mind, please locate the following passages in your Bible and fill in the blank portions of Scripture.

**Note:** All passages have been taken from the KJV. However, if you are using a different version, please locate the passages and write them as they are stated in the version you are using.

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

"It is of the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ that we are not \_\_\_\_\_, because his \_\_\_\_\_ fail not. They are \_\_\_\_\_ every morning: great is thy \_\_\_\_\_."

**Lamentations 3:40-41**

"Let us \_\_\_\_\_ and try our ways, and turn \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord. Let us \_\_\_\_\_ up our \_\_\_\_\_ with our \_\_\_\_\_ unto God in the \_\_\_\_\_."

**Luke 6:38**

"\_\_\_\_\_, and it shall be \_\_\_\_\_ unto you; good \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ down, \_\_\_\_\_ together, and \_\_\_\_\_ over, shall men give unto your bosom: For with the same \_\_\_\_\_ that ye mete withal it shall be \_\_\_\_\_ to you again."

Thank you for sharing in this Bible Study Session!