

## EXAMINE YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that we must be constantly looking at our own life to be sure we are following the message of God
2. Ps. 139:23,24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
  - a. David was saying: Search, try, see and lead
    - (1) Search Me - know my heart
    - (2) Try me - know my thoughts
    - (3) Know me - see if there is any wicked way in me
    - (4) Lead Me - in the way everlasting
  - b. This is great advice for all people even today
3. Paul said it this way: "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?" II Cor. 13:5
  - a. Examine = Try (make trial of) yourselves. - it was their responsibility to put themselves to the test with regard to their own faith and to determine, by testing it whether or not they were living a life of faith in Christ.
  - b. Yourselves - to see if you are in the faith
  - c. One must not take for granted that things are well spiritually. Each day must be examination day.
  - d. This is a personal examination - look in the mirror of God's word
4. A spiritual Check Up - looking inward at our spiritual man

Discussion**I. SEARCH ME O GOD AND KNOW MY HEART**

- A. "Search me, O God, and know my heart"
1. Search - examine, find out
  2. Know my heart
- B. The heart is deceitful
1. Jer. 17:9-10 "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings."
    - a. If man follows his own ways then he will be very wicked - he deceives himself
    - b. Jer. 10:23 "O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
      - c. Then he believes that he can deceive God !!
  2. Heb. 3:12 "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."
- C. If our heart is right then our lives will demonstrate it
1. Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."
  2. Matt. 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
  3. Matt. 5:8 "Blessed [are] the pure in heart: for they shall see God."
- D. Ps. 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."
1. His need is for a heart—mind, inner man—that is pure from the trail and stain of sin
  2. Examine thyself - and see if your heart is right

## II. TRY ME AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS

### A. How does God try us

1. It is by his word
2. Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

### B. God Knows what we are thinking

1. Jesus knew the thoughts of the people after the resurrection when he appeared to his disciples - Luke 24:37-38 - "But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?"
  - a. They were terrified and scared and supposed that they had seen a spirit
  - b. He asked: "why do thoughts arise in your hearts?" He knew what they were thinking
2. I Cor. 3:20 "And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."
3. Luke 2:34-35 "And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this [child] is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

- C. In Matt. 22:42 we read... "What think ye of Christ?"
1. The thoughts of many hearts are revealed by this question
  2. Will you say with David - Try me and know my thoughts
    - a. About my neighbor - brothers and sisters in Christ
    - b. About the church - my attendance, giving, time, talents
    - c. About the word - my respect for it or disregard
    - d. About the Lost - my concern or unconcern
    - e. About Jesus - my love or disregard
  3. Examine thyself - and see if your thoughts are pure

### III. SEE IF THERE BE ANY WICKED WAY IN ME

- A. Ps. 139:24 a And see if [there be any] wicked way in me
1. Ask God to search our hearts and know our thoughts....
  2. When we humble ourselves and sincerely make this request of God then...
  3. We will be able to "see" if there is any wicked way in us !!
  4. We know if we are a hypocrite - cannot really lie to our self about sincerity.
- B. When "We" know there is wickedness then we must
1. Confess our sins
  2. 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- C. If we can see the wickedness of our ways - then we know God can see it !!!!!
- D. Pride gets in the way
1. If we say we have not sinned - 1 Jn. 1:10
  2. His word is not in us - Unless we confess we will not be forgiven

3. Rom. 3:23
  4. Gal. 3:22 "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."
  5. If all have sinned !!! - Where Am I ?
  6. ILL. Parade - woman was watching her son march - he was the only one in step
- E. We need to examine ourselves to see if there is any wicked ways in our life. If so then we must repent.

#### IV. LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING

- A. Ps. 139:24b and lead me in the way everlasting."
  1. Rom. 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
  2. How does the spirit lead us today? It is by the Word of God
  3. Eph. 6:17 "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"
- B. What is the way everlasting?
  1. 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."
    - a. Jesus is the way - the one and only way to the Father
    - b. Science, popularity, fame, money do not lead to the way everlasting
  2. Matt. 7:14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

- a. Strait gate = narrow way
- b. God's way of everlasting life -
  - (1) Hearing - Rm. 10:17
  - (2) Faith - Heb. 11:6
  - (3) Repent - Lk. 13:3
  - (4) Confess - Matt. 10:32
  - (5) Baptized - Mark 16:16 - Gal. 3:27

### Conclusion

1. Ps. 139:23,24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
  - (1) Search Me - know my heart
  - (2) Try me - know my thoughts
  - (3) Know me - see if there is any wicked way in me
  - (4) Lead Me - in the way everlasting
2. Examine ourselves - good checkup spiritually is valuable.
3. Paul did not say examine others, though this is sometimes necessary. But it is easy to examine others and overlook self-examination. I may look at others and conclude all is well, but that is the wrong measure.

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### Source

Thoughts from a sermon outline by Joe Brown - adapted by Arthur Pigman

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