

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 19

2021

Examine Yourself

The apostle Paul instructed the saints in Corinth to, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith...” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Brethren, we too need to be mindful of the need to take some time for self-examination. Knowing that, take some time to...

Examine Your Thoughts.

What are you thinking about? You see, although men do not know the thoughts of other men, the truth is, God knows our thoughts. For, the inspired Psalmist declared, “*The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile*” (Psalm 94:11). Again, God knows our thoughts. Therefore, examine your thoughts, and strive to bring your every thought into the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Examine The Company You Keep.

Who are you keeping company with? Paul wrote, “*Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits*” (1 Corinthians 15:33). We all need to take heed to those words of Paul, and we need to seek to surround ourselves around those who are a positive influence on us, rather than a negative one. With that in mind, hold on to these words of wisdom from Proverbs 4:14-15, “*Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do*

not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.” Once again, take some time to examine your close associations, and be one who chooses your friends wisely (Proverbs 26:12).

Examine Your Habits.

How many times have you heard someone say, “I have a bad habit?” Well, I venture to say that most all of us have either said this, or heard this at some point in time. However, we need to examine any so-called “bad habit” that we may have, and we need to understand the need to discipline our bodies and to bring it into subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27). For as Peter wrote, “*Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lust which war against the soul...*” (1 Peter 2:11). May we all keep these words of Paul and Peter in mind, and let’s not let “bad habits” get the best of us.

Examine Your Affections.

Where are your affections or fond feelings? You see, in Colossians 3:2, Paul, instructed the saints in Colosse to, “*Set your mind on things above, not on the things of the earth.*” My beloved brethren, we all need to be reminded of the need to focus on things above (spiritual things), rather than the things of the earth (worldly things). You see, John revealed, “*...the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever*” (1 John 2:17). Therefore, do not be one who loves the world and the things of it (1 John 2:15), but rather be one who sets your affections on things above.

Examine Your Motives.

A motive is defined as “a thing that induces a person to act in a particular way.” However, as we pointed out earlier, God knows the thoughts of man. Therefore, He also knows our motives. So, knowing that let’s always keep these words of Paul

in mind, “...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). Again, we need to examine our motives, we need to beware of being vindictive, and we need to be one who always seeks to glorify God in all that we do.

Examine Your Aspirations.

What is your ultimate goal? What is that one thing that you aspire to achieve the most? Hopefully, everyone’s aspiration or ultimate goal is to obtain eternal life in heaven. You see, we know this was the apostle Paul’s aspiration, for he said, “*I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 3:14). My friend, take some time to examine your aspirations, and be one who strives to keep on pressing toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

These are just a few things for us to keep in mind while doing some spiritual self-examining. Now, the question is, when was the last time that you had a spiritual examination?

✍ Brad Phillips

“The Sin Of Hypocrisy”

It is a sorry thing to engage in lies, deceit, lip service, etc. But that is exactly what the hypocrite does. The hypocrite is like a play-actor, pretending to be something he is not. Too often, hypocrisy takes place among those claiming to be children of God. Shame on you and shame on me if/when that’s the case with us. The Bible speaks of hypocrisy and clearly shows it to be sin.

1 Peter 2:1 - “Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking.” This is what

the Christian is to do. Lay aside hypocrisy. Let it not be named among believers.

Job 27:8 - “For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much if God takes away his life?” What hope has the hypocrite? Certainly not Heaven! He has no hope. Tragic!

Matthew 25:41 - Jesus speaks of the unfaithful servant being appointed “...his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Here the Lord specifies the hypocrite’s place with all the lost. Hell will be home for the pretenders.

Friend, if you claim to be a Christian, be Christ-like. Guard your body and mind. Be pure. Don’t be a hypocrite!

✍ David McPherson

Belleville church of Christ
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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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