

Examine Yourself

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"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?"
(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Back in grade school I remember a mirror that was in the hall. It had a sign by it that said, "This is the way others see you, are you satisfied?" I have thought of that sign through the years and considered it in a spiritual sense. We should ask ourselves this question, "This is the way God sees you, is he satisfied?" Then the question would be, 'Are you satisfied with what he sees?'

God's word is like a mirror of the soul. A person can look at what the Lord says in scripture and compare his life to it. How close does it match up? If we are seriously trying to keep God's word and to walk with him daily then we will be close to him. Any of us knows whether, or not, we are mindful of the Lord as we go through our day. If in our day we talk with him and praise him and strive to obey him we will grow closer to him.

Consider Job and his walk with the Lord. He trust-

ed in God and his righteousness, but he also had confidence in himself. He knew that he worshiped the Lord and lived a life that was pleasing to God. In the trials that he faced you know that he examined his life. Friends and family tried to make him question his faith, but he knew he had helped others and resisted sin. His confidence was like that of the Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7. He said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Paul was not bragging or being arrogant, but was confident, knowing that in faith and love of God he had lived the Christian life in Jesus.

There is a difference between being prideful and confident. Pride says, 'Look at me and what I have done!' Confidence says, 'Look at what the Lord has done. He has saved me and I'm trusting in him.' You know that the Lord will do his part, and if you know that in truth you're doing your part, then you should have confidence.

Examine yourself in the faith. The Lord says to love one another. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Those who obey this commandment, and the others, know that they are obeying the Lord. If a person is not doing this

from the heart then he knows that he is not pleasing to the Lord.

The command to forgive each other, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15), is also something that God expects his followers to obey. Each person knows if he, or she, is doing this in truth. Some think that saying it is good enough. If it is only lip service then it is false and not accepted by the Lord.

Church attendance is often overlooked by some who say that they are born again. They say that they are following Jesus and living according to his word, but their lives say different. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." (1 Peter 2:21). If Jesus is our example then we should attend upon the worship service as Jesus did. Consider Hebrews 10: 25-26. Some will say that these scriptures don't mean that, but the same is claimed about most of the bible. It is foolish to think that God didn't know how to say the things that he wanted believers to know, or that he said things that he didn't mean.

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BY JOHN LEHTI

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THE ARK GOING BEFORE--- MEANT VICTORY!

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT HAD BEEN MADE SPECIFICALLY AS A RECEPTACLE FOR THE TABLES OF STONE ON WHICH WERE INSCRIBED THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. A DESCRIPTION OF ITS CONSTRUCTION IS GIVEN IN EX. 25. BUT MORE THAN THAT, THE ARK WAS USED AS A TALISMAN ON MANY OCCASIONS. IT WENT BEFORE THE ISRAELITES WHEN THEY LEFT MOUNT SINAI EITHER IN THE VAN OR, AS THE EXPRESSION MAY DENOTE, "LIKE A KING IN THE MIDST OF HIS TROOPS," LEADING AND DIRECTING THE MARCH, WHILE THE PRIESTS WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED IT SIGNALLED THE ORDERS OF YAHWEH, HIMSELF. IT WENT IN ADVANCE OF THE PEOPLE, WHEN THEY CROSSED THE JORDAN RIVER, IT WAS CARRIED IN THE MIDST OF THE HOST FOR SEVEN DAYS AROUND JERICHO, BEFORE THE WALLS OF THE CITY FELL DOWN. (JOSH. 6:1-20) MORE AND MORE, SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS OF ISRAELITES CAME TO ANTICIPATE COMPLETE VICTORY WHEN THE ARK WAS BROUGHT OUT ONTO THE FIELD OF BATTLE, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR MANY, MANY BATTLES WITH THE PHILISTINES. SO MUCH SO, THAT BEFORE A BATTLE TOOK PLACE.....



.....THE ISRAELITES, WITH THE ARK IN ATTENDANCE, RUSH OUT TO MEET THE PHILISTINES ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE — CONFIDENT OF A FULL AND COMPLETE VICTORY!

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