



people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness” (2 Peter 3:10-11). In light of the coming destruction Peter encourages his readers to consider themselves. Are you the kind of people you need to be? An answer to that question can only come from spiritual self-evaluation.

Let's Evaluate Ourselves
If you're anything

like me, it is incredibly easy to fall into the monotony of routines. If we're not careful days, weeks, months, or years can go by without ever honestly evaluating our personal spiritual condition. In light of what Scripture teaches, this is clearly unacceptable. We need to be examining ourselves to make sure we are **“lacking in nothing”** (James 1:4).

I'll close by offering a few practical suggestions that may help you in your effort to evaluate yourself. First, be honest with yourself. Without being honest in this effort, no real growth will occur. Second, create biblical goals. Identify areas in which you need to improve and write them down. Finally, take time to evaluate yourself. Set times daily, weekly, or monthly to sit down and consider whether or not you're living up to Christ's standard. Ask yourself regularly, “Did I handle that situation like I should have?” “Should I have responded differently?” “Can people see Christ in me?” Brethren, let's work together as we make an effort to evaluate ourselves spiritually.

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Welcome Visitors
**We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.**

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

16.33

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

August 17,
2014



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

Spiritual Self-Evaluation

By Andrew Dow

Self-evaluation is a part of everyday life. For example, we are forced to evaluate ourselves when it comes to our jobs to make sure we are working efficiently. Similarly wisdom directs us to frequently evaluate our financial situations so that we do not overspend. Many people even evaluate their performance in leisure activities such as golf, sewing, or other hobbies.

We place such an emphasis on self-evaluation because without it we would not improve. We would remain stagnate in our business, finances, or hobbies. With this in mind, do we ever stop to evaluate ourselves spiritually? Do we ever take a step back, survey the situation, and decide if changes need to be made? Or do we remain stagnate in our spiritual lives, never improving? I would like to challenge you in this article to make spiritual self-evaluation a regular part of your life.

The Need For Spiritual Self-Evaluation

Christians are described in a number of ways throughout the Scriptures. They are instructed to have characteristics

like humility, contentment, meekness, and peacefulness. While these kinds of characteristics seem to portray an easy going attitude, it is important to note that Christians are never to be lazy or inactive. On the contrary, God invites His followers to observe the ways of the hard working ant (Proverbs 6:6-11). Christians are to be striving after their goals (cf. Romans 15:30; 1 Timothy 4:10).

What are some goals that we should be working toward? First, we should always be striving to be like God. Paul wrote, **“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us...”** (Ephesians 5:1-2). Our Lord said, **“You are to be perfect, as your**

heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). We must strive for perfection so we can emulate our God. Second, we should strive to serve God. This seems simple enough, but some are haphazard or lazy in their efforts to please God. Paul asked the Galatians rhetorically, **“Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men?”** (Galatians 1:10). The fact is, if we are truly intent on serving and pleasing God, it is something toward which we must strive. Finally, Christians should be striving to live with God. The goal of Heaven could be viewed as the result of becoming like God and serving God, but we must recognize that eternity in the presence of God is the object of our hope! Jesus encourages us, **“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able”** (Luke 13:24). Eternal life with God will only belong to those who worked diligently to get there.

Christians are expected to be active in pursuit of the goals set before them. We cannot be passive observers and expect to excel. Brethren, this is why spiritual self-evaluation is so important. We need to step back and examine whether we are becoming more like God, or more like the world. We need to gather our thoughts and consider whether we are serving God, or serving ourselves. We need to discern whether we are on the path to an eternal reward, or eternal destruction.

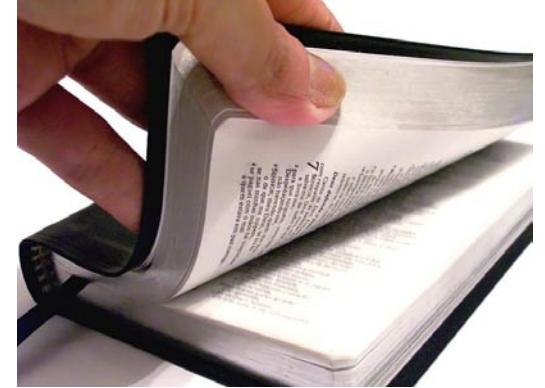
Inspired Pleas For Spiritual Self-Evaluation

Thus far we have looked at the hard work that Christ requires of His followers and inferred that self-evaluation is important. While I am confident that we are correct in making that inference, it's important to point out that

inspired authors encouraged their readers (or listeners) to evaluate their current condition. Let's note a few examples.

First, consider with me the words of Christ: **“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye”** (Matthew 7:3-5). Here Jesus shows the absurdity of trying to correct someone else, when your own situation is not what it should be. What is Jesus' solution? First, evaluate yourself. Take a step back and notice that you've got a log hanging out of your eye socket! We simply cannot be the Christians we ought to be without spiritual self-evaluation.

Second, Paul explicitly told the Corinthians of their need to examine themselves. In the context of talking about the Lord's Supper Paul wrote, **“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup”** (1 Corinthians 11:27-28). On another occasion Paul wrote, **“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-**



-unless indeed you fail the test?” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Should we not take the apostle's advice and evaluate our spiritual situation from time to time?

Finally, we see Peter offer a similar exhortation after foretelling the impending destruction of the world. He writes, **“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of**