

“PASSING THE FAITH TEST”

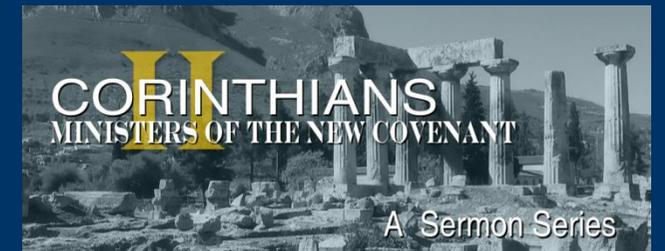
(2 Corinthians 13:5-10)

Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 27

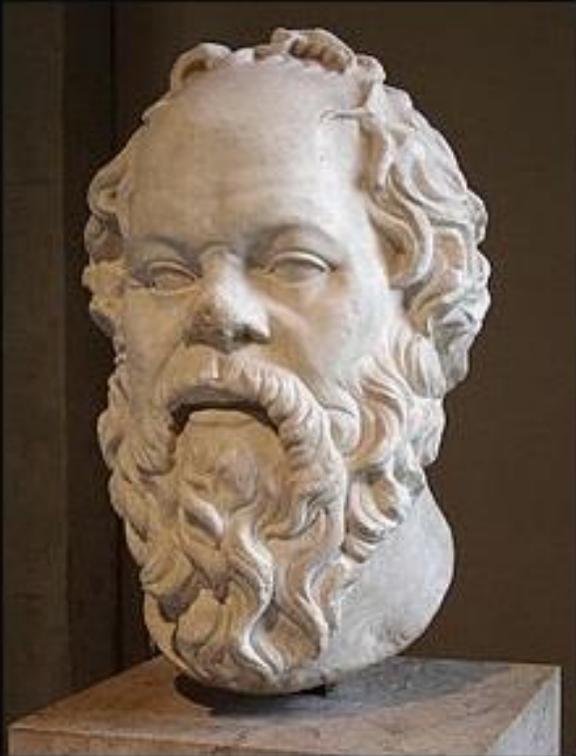
Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: July 22, 2018

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



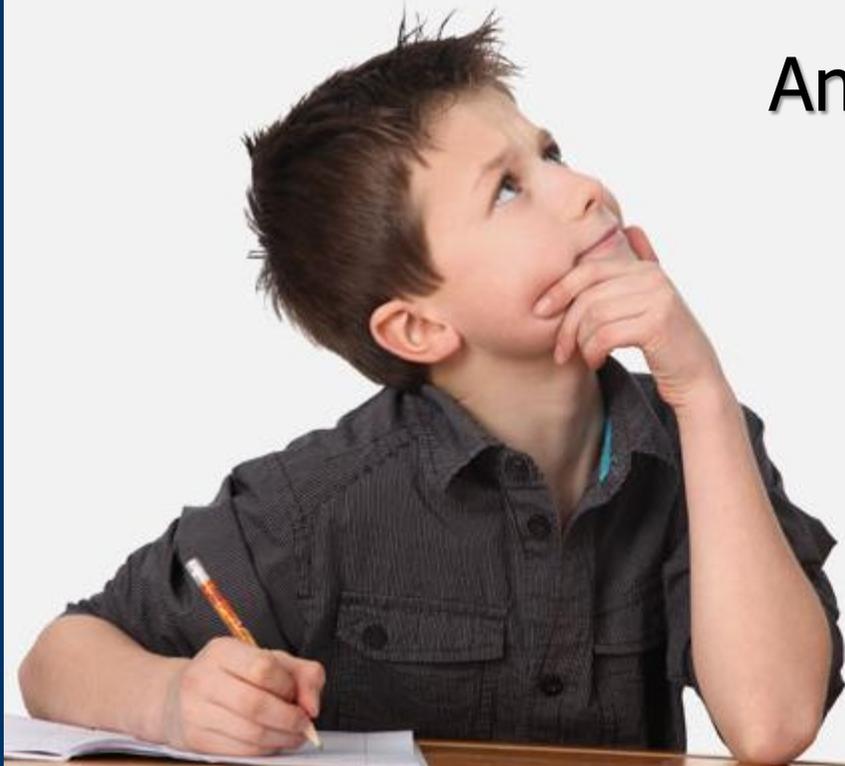
"The unexamined life is not worth living."

(Socrates)

Yet how few of us really take time to examine ourselves.

I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

2 Cor 13:5 **Examine** yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test?



An examination calls for three things:

A Test – “peirazo”

A Proof – “dokimazo”

A Perception – “epiginosko”

I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

A) *Give yourself an objective test.*



- Do I have a personal relationship with Christ?
- Have I experienced any significant changes in my life through knowing Him?
- Do I experience His leading, His presence, His peace, His joy?



I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

B) Call to mind specific proof that you're a Christian.



- Can you show evidence that you are really a changed person?
- How different are your thoughts?
- How about your habits? Your goals? Your relationships? Your feelings?



I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

C) Ask yourself if you have an inner discernment.

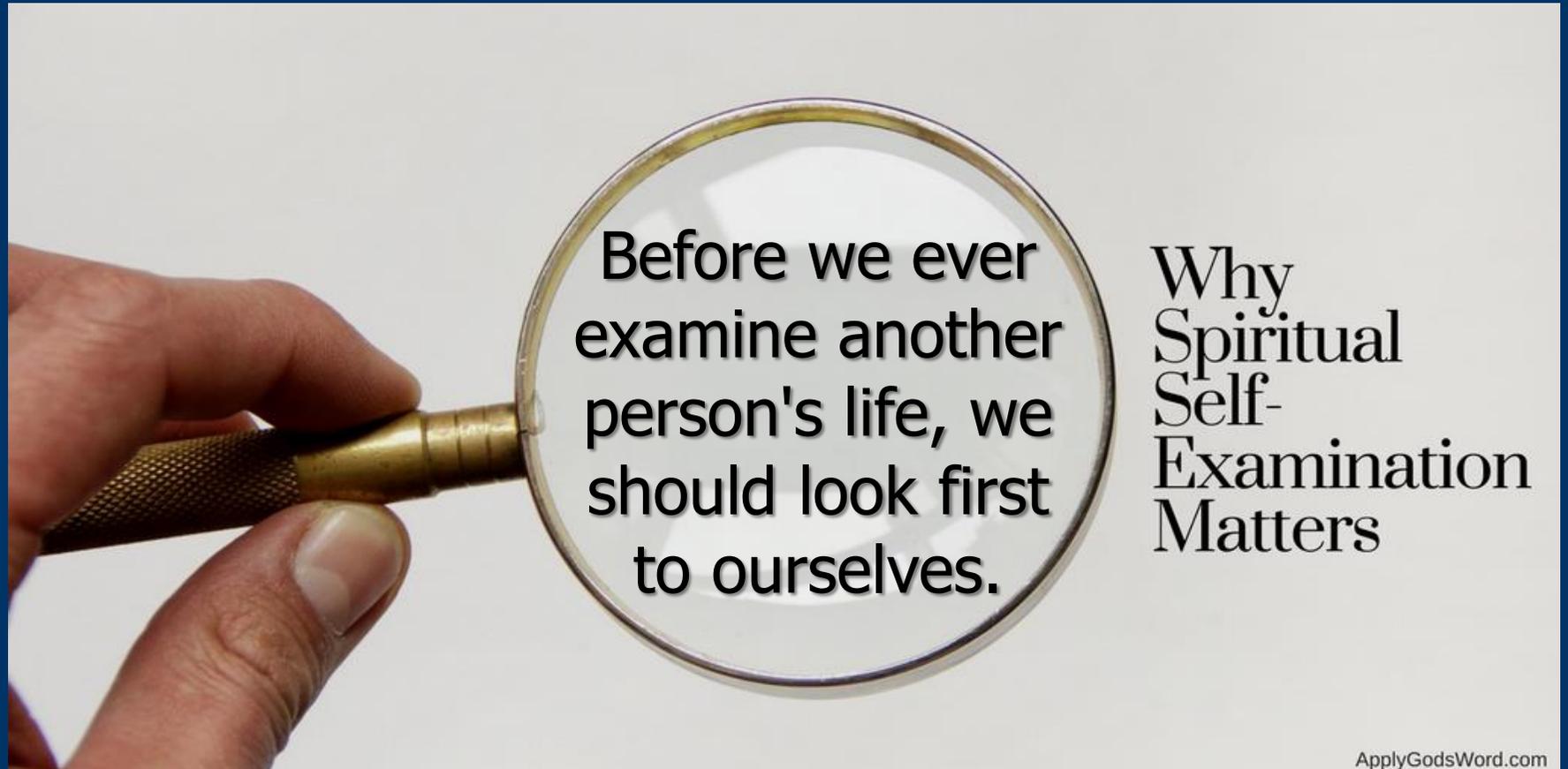


- Are you growing in knowledge, confidence, and peace?
- Are you more often in a dilemma, full of unsettling questions, doubts, and uncertainties?



I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

2 Cor 13:6 *And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.*



I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

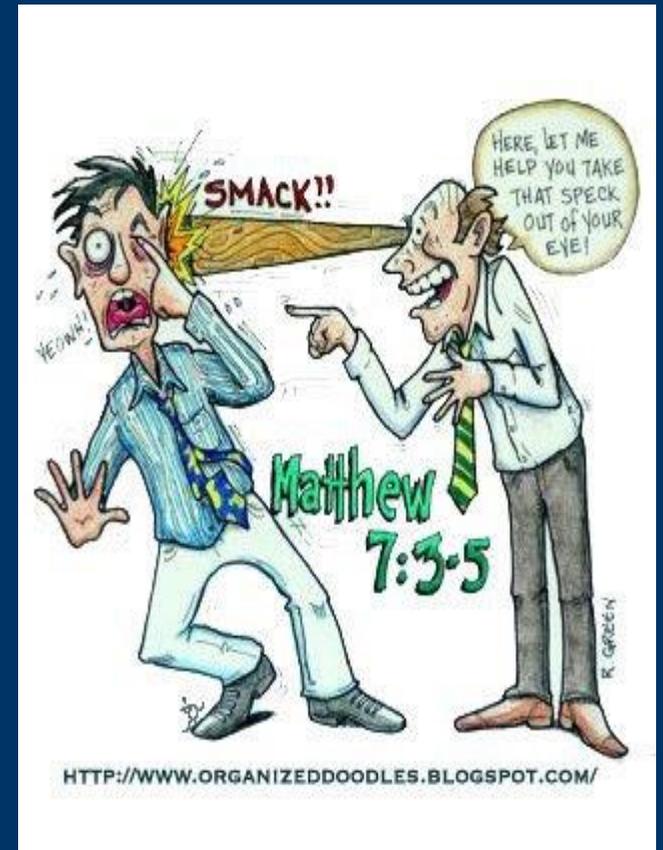
Matt 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"

4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"

5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.



I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

Matt 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **16** By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?"

17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.



I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

2 Cor 13:7 *Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong — not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.*

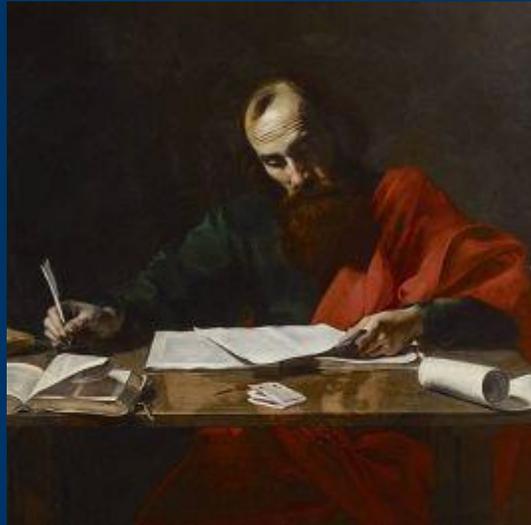


2 Cor 13:8 *For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.*



I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

2 Cor 13:9 *We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored.*



2 Cor 13:10 *This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority — the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.*

I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

1 Pet 5:1 *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed:*



2 *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

I. A TEST THAT MANY NEVER TAKE

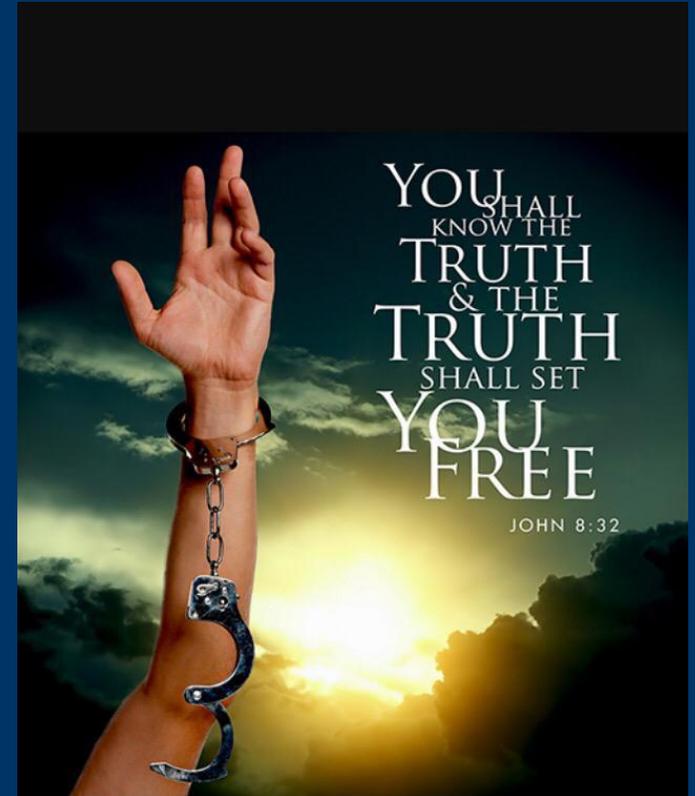
3 Jn 9 *I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us.*

10 *So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.*



II. A SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR TAKING THE TEST

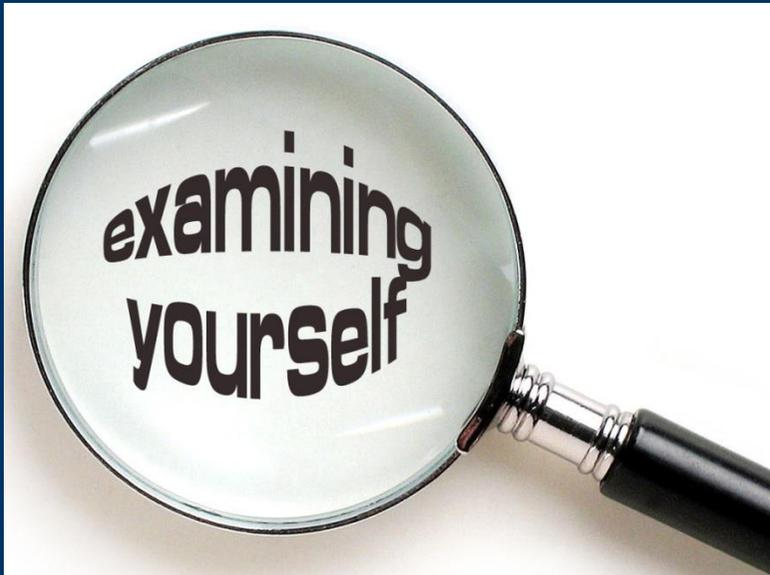
- A)** *It reveals the truth to us, which is what will ultimately set us free*
- B)** *It keeps us from a hypercritical attitude.*
- C)** *It removes a lot of debris that can clog our lives and stagnates the fresh flow of energy.*



CONCLUSION:



Since the benefits for testing ourselves are so positive, let's sharpen our pencils and get down to business. Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind.



- 1. Ask the hard questions.***
- 2. Answer honestly.***
- 3. Review your answers.***
- 4. Resist the temptation to rationalize.***



CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is it so important to constantly examine our lives?*
- 2. If self-examination is so important, why do people avoid taking the test?*
- 3. What do we benefit from taking a self-examination?*
- 4. What are some suggestions in taking a self-examination to help us grow spiritually?*



Scripture References:

2 Corinthians 13:5-10