

March 20, 2011

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Monday

2Cor. 13:5 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?

Self-evaluation is always a good thing, particularly when eternal salvation is at stake. These words are not a call to doubt God's promises to you, but to examine carefully your life in order to make sure that you have received His promises. Have you reckoned yourself a sinner without hope? Have you recognized Jesus' death as your only hope of salvation? Have you made a personal decision to give your life to Jesus, to trust him for your security, to follow Him as your Lord? These are the things of salvation. Twice the verse calls for you to test yourself.

Tuesday

2Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

One of Satan's tools and man's great temptations is to make application of scripture readily to others and hesitantly to our own lives. When the sermon is preached or the small group finished, it is our tendency to hear well how God's word should impact *someone else, anyone else*. It is easy to see how the one next to us or a family member could, even should, apply God's truth. But God is not feeding you a meal for another's satisfaction. He desires that you should apply God's principle to your life. Be diligent this week to make personal application of God's word.

Wednesday

2Pet. 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We seem to have developed a society where men and women want to give away responsibility. We make the education of our children the responsibility of our schools. We make the care of our elderly the responsibility of the state. We make the health of our bodies the responsibility of our physicians. Worst of all, we convince ourselves that our spiritual health, that of our families, and of our church is the responsibility of the pastors or other leaders. But God is not a partner to such responsibility disbursement. Determine that you will bear rightly your responsibility for your own spiritual development.

Thursday

2Cor. 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!

How? Well for one, look at your relationships with others. Those who know the fullness and forgiveness of Jesus, find ways to forgive others. Those who know the peace of Jesus work peace in the lives of those around them. James was right when he said, "faith without works is dead." Genuine faith leads to growth in grace and righteousness. The word of God says, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy." (James 3:17) How are you doing in the test?

Friday

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom...

Psa. 119:160 The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

God's test is an 'open book exam.' Shame on anyone who fails to bring the book or use its resources for the test. Where do you find truth? In the word of God. Where do you find wisdom? In the word of God. Where do you find instruction? In the word of God. God's word is our resource for every aspect of our lives. If you are going to take a test, certainly you want access to the answers. If you have access to the answers and fail to utilize the book... Well, what do you think? Who bears that responsibility? Who bears that loss?