

Who am I? Self-Evaluation

“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

“For if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting, but to himself alone, and not to another.” Galatians 6:3-4

“Let’s examine and search out our ways, and let’s return to the Lord.” Lamentations 3:40

December Birthdays

17 Bill Brown 18 Alexis Brown 31 Bob Pescador

December Anniversaries

12 Ron & Peggy Woodruff 18 Jim & Marie Burruss

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God and Job

By Jack Critchfield

The book of Job, as we discussed in the Wednesday class not long ago, shows us how a patient servant of God was rewarded. But having said that, Job is not as much about Job and his faith as it is about God and how He operates. Job was being tested. to be sure, but God even more so. Does God bless Job for nothing? Is God being unfair and unjust? Is God the true adversary? Does God punish the way that the friends suggested? The questions about God are numerous.

We struggle with similar questions and issues. We often put God on trial as if He is amenable to us. We, like Job, may think that if we had God here in front of us, we would be able to defend ourselves (Job 31:35-37). Yet, when God appeared. Job could only put his hand on his mouth (Job 40:3-5).

Putting our hands on our mouths may be the wisest thing we can do at times, especially when it comes to questioning God and His ways. We are not able to know what God knows or understand what God understands. Because of this, we are not in the position of being righteous judges and critics. *“Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who reproves God answer it.”* (Job 40:2)

The book stands as a stark reminder that we need humility for that is where true faith and strength reside. God need not give an accounting of Himself to me or you. Rather, we are accountable to Him, and only when we really get that will we find true purpose. *“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?”* *“Therefore, I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.”* (Job 42:3)

In all our highbrow theological debates, I wonder sometimes if God would answer us the way He spoke to Job and his friends:

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”
(Job 38:2) In other words, “You have no idea what you are talking about.” Indeed.

So today, I am reminded of my need to back up and listen to the Lord's wisdom. Are we confident that the people who meet us today will see Christ in us? If not, why not? (John 13:34,35).

The Best Day Author Unknown

Today, when I woke up, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did, I'm going to celebrate!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes, even the hardships, because they have served to make me stronger.

I will go through this day with my head held high and a happy heart. I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds. Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I'll make someone smile. I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for her/him and how much she/he means to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and His Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

And tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends and I lay my head upon my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life. And I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be the best day of my life, ever!

Daddy, What Is a Christian? Author Unknown

A little boy once asked his father, “Daddy, what is a Christian?”

The father thought for a minute, then replied, “Son, a Christian believes in God and in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He has heard the gospel of Christ and in faith obeyed it. This means that he repented of his sins and confessed Jesus to be God's Son. He was then baptized for the remission of sins. When he did this, the Lord added him to His church.”

“He loves God very much. He loves his family, his brethren, his neighbors, and even his enemies. He is one who takes his religion seriously. He lives it seven days a week. He worships God with other disciples at every available opportunity. He really enjoys his service to God. He is not covetous or stingy, but from a generous and cheerful heart gives his money to help others and further the Lord's work.”

“He prays frequently and fervently. He chooses his words carefully at all times. He does not choose good words when he assembles with the saints, then uses bad words on the job or elsewhere. He is kind, considerate, gentle, patient, caring, and in general, is a good neighbor and citizen. He reads the Bible regularly and shares it with anyone who is willing to study. He leads his family in praying with them and for them. He is dependable in the work of promoting God's truth. He is hospitable, visits the sick, is honest in his dealings, and is a good example to others. He loves and is loved. These are just a few of the things that constitute a Christian.”

The boy thought for a moment and then asked, “*Have I ever seen one?*”