

January 10, 2016
2 Corinthians 13:5

A NEW YEAR'S EXAMINATION

I. Introduction:

How many of you have an annual Physical Examination?

II. A Spiritual Examination:

“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?” 2 Corinthians 13:5

A. An Examination In Relationship To Christ

Question: What place do you desire Christ to have in your life as we begin the New Year?

Question: What place did Christ have in your life in 2015?

The Bible Teaches That Christ Should Have First Priority

[15] “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. [16] For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. [17] **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.** [18] And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. [19] For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,” Colossians 1:15-19

B. An Examination In Relationship To God's Word

“Now the Berans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures **every day** to see if what Paul said was true.” Acts 17:11

How is your relationship to God's Word?

C An Examination In Relationship To Transformation (Becoming More Like Christ)

[1] Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. [2] Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

III. Conclusion and Application:

- How will 2016 be different from 2015?
- What Areas would you like to grow to be more like Christ in 2016?

**Happy New Year!!
God's Best To You In 2016**

POINTS TO PONDER
WEEK OF JANUARY 10-16, 2016
2 CORINTHIANS 13:5
A NEW YEAR'S EXAMINATION

Open It

1. How would you prepare for a visit from a friend you haven't seen in a long time?
2. *What is one warning you're thankful you received?

Explore It

3. Why did Paul return to Corinth a third time? (13:1-2)
4. How do we know the Corinthians were doubting Paul's authority? (13:3)
5. Why did Paul plan to be firm with the chronic sinners in Corinth? (13:3-4)
6. *Why did Paul advise the Corinthians to examine themselves? (13:5)
7. How could the Corinthians "fail the test"? (13:5)
8. *What does this passage reveal about Paul's concern for the Corinthians' spiritual welfare and regard for his own reputation? (13:7)
9. How could Paul be glad despite his problems? (13:9)
10. *Why did Paul write to the church at Corinth? (13:10)
11. For what purpose had God given authority to Paul? (13:10)

12. What did Paul want the Corinthians to do? (13:11-14)

13. What was Paul's appeal in the conclusion to his letter?
(13:11-14)

Get It

14. When should we demand proof that a person's teaching about God is true?

15. How has God demonstrated His power in your life?

16. What difference does it make that God's power lives in you?

17. *When is it helpful to examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith?

18. How do you think a person could fail the test of faith?

19. *What does it mean to submit to those in authority in the church?

20. What should you do to mend the relationship whenever you are at odds with another Christian?

21. What does it mean to aim for perfection?

22. What goals should Christians set for themselves?

Apply It

23. *In what way would it be helpful for you to test your faith?
How could you?

24. Who could help you test yourself this week to see whether you are in the faith?

25. What realistic, measurable goal could you set for your own growth toward godliness this week and this year?