

## EXAMINING OURSELVES, I CORINTHIANS 11:28

Let us go to the Word of God today in First Corinthians 11:28 for our thought for the day. And we find these precious words given by the Spirit of God through the Apostle Paul that says:

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup  
(I Corinthians 11:28).

Let us just concentrate on the thought of examining ourselves today. Someone has rightfully said, "It is the hardest thing in the world to be a good thinker without being a good self-examiner." Herein, I think lies the root of all the troubles, nearly, in the world today. Mankind is too busy examining the other person instead of examining himself. If we examine ourselves then we can always find by the Grace of God our responsibility in every situation. We can always find our need in every situation to change and assume the responsibility, then, for that change. There are different ways that we can examine ourselves.

The word *examine* means to weigh out carefully, to inquire into the state or the truth of any matter. To examine means to endeavour to ascertain the facts relating to anything. We can see how readily we jump to conclusions, how often we judge the other person, how often we move in our judgment without inquiring into the real state and truth of matters. To examine ourselves means to investigate, to scrutinize, to weigh out and sift the arguments relating to any matter. To examine means to inspect and to explore the condition or state of anything. To examine means also to submit to examination. It means to question as a witness. It means to interrogate. It means to test the capabilities, qualifications. It means to ascertain the attainments. It means to ascertain progress by examination. So how profitable, then, for us to begin to examine ourselves.

Let us go to the Word of God, and see how that we may best accomplish this examination. If we go back to Psalm, the twenty-sixth chapter, and verse two, we find these words. King David

prayed here unto the LORD and he said:

Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart (Psalm 26:2).

So you can see that King David had a revelation that he could not do this examining himself. Since our heart is deceitful and desperately wicked the Word of God says, how can we really examine ourselves? And because that we feel our inadequacies in examining ourselves, we find it easier to examine the other fellow. But if we pray to the LORD and call unto Him in prayer and ask Him to do the examining, then, surely, he will do that. So King David said, "Examine me." Examine how that I try to redeem situations here and there. Examine, me, O LORD, not my brother or my sister. Weigh me out carefully. Interrogate me. Search me out. Inspect me. Explore me, so that you can help me to know where my problems are and where my failures are, where my shortcomings are.

And he said, "And prove me." We always want the other person to be proven. Many times I counsel people, and they always want the other party to be proven. They always want the other person to be inspected. They always want the other person to be told their faults, their errors. But when we are sincere with God, and we come and pray like King David prayed here, we will have a desire for God to examine us, and to turn the light upon our heart, upon our wills and upon our minds to show that which is inside of us that is not like Jesus Christ.

So he said, "Try my reins." Reins speak in the spiritual side of man to what kidneys do in the natural. Our reins are our emotions of our heart. Just like the kidneys in the natural sanctify the body and keep it purified and cleansed by carrying out impurities, likewise, as we heave up our emotions in prayer to God, our emotions will sanctify our minds and take away our worries, take away our fears and sanctify us, so that we can be clean and holy and praise God in every situation. So he said, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my emotions." See if my emotions are

clean, see if I am labeling my anger something besides anger, see if I am labeling my wrath something besides wrath, see if I am labeling my hatred something besides hatred. Search me and know my emotions. The greatest thing in all the world is to examine your emotions and see whether they be of God or see whether they be of your own self which we inherited from Adam the First and he in turn inherited from Fallen Lucifer the Serpent.

So he says here, “Examine me, try my reins, try my emotions, search them out and try my heart. Prove my heart and see if my heart is deceitful. Sometimes with our mouth we say that we want to serve God. Sometimes with our mouth we say we want to be a Christian. Sometimes with our mouth, we say that we want to be real and to serve God. But then we find that our heart is deceitful then when we are put in places of temptations and testings and trials. We will find that our heart and our will does not really want to serve God, does not really want to meet the test, does not really want to be searched out. So, beloved, one way that we can examine ourselves is to go pray and solicit God’s help in prayer through His Spirit and through His Word to open our eyes that we might see ourselves, to open our eyes that we might see the reins, the emotions of our heart for what they are, to open our eyes that we might see our own deceitfulness. We are so ready to call someone else a hypocrite, a Pharisee, or to degrade and vilify someone else’s testimony rather than go and ask God to search our our own hearts and let us examine and see what is real and what is unlike the LORD.

Again, we find the Apostle Paul in Second Corinthians, thirteen, five:

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (II Corinthians 13:5).

So, beloved, never in the Word of God have I ever found a Scripture that says to prove your brother, examine your brother. But always the Word of God is telling us, commanding us, to know yourselves and know yourselves whether Jesus Christ is in you. Examine and see if you are just

professing or if you have something real from God. Examine your heart today and see where you stand with Jesus Christ. Whether you be a sinner or whether you be a Christian, examine your heart and see how you stand with Jesus Christ today.

Heavenly Father, we thank You today for Your precious Word of Light and Life. And we ask O God that You send forth Your omnipresent Word into the hearts of people today and enlighten and constrain them, O God, to seek out and to search out their hearts that they might ascertain their standing before thee, this day because we pray in Jesus' Precious Name. Amen. Ɔ