

LOOKING IN THE MIRROR

Jas 1:21-25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Self-examination critical for Christians.
- B. Someone has said there are three views of man.
 - 1. The way he sees himself
 - 2. The way others see him
 - 3. The way God sees him
- C. Obviously, the accurate one is the way God sees him
- D. Until man sees himself the way God does he will always be deceived and self-deception is the most difficult illusion to understand. (“check-up from the neck up”)

DISCUSSION:

I. SELF-EXAMINATION A PROBLEM

- A. For Christians just as much as those in the world
 - 1. We rationalize our conduct, make excuses for our actions and ignore sinful behavior just like world
 - 2. Pride, evil lusts and spiritual blindness all contribute to this problem among saints
- B. Paul indicts the Corinthians as being contentious, carnal and immoral 1Cor 1:11; 3:3; 5:1
- C. Told to examine themselves 2Cor 13:5 (ESV “test yourselves” determine if genuine (note Jhn 8:31)
 - 1. Precious metals, stones, pearls, etc are tested
 - 2. We must test ourselves lest we become reprobate (castaway, rejected, disqualified 1Cor 9:27)
- D. We must look into the mirror of God’s word to see what kind of person we are (text)
 - 1. One must read the Word objectively giving thought to their inward need
 - 2. Don’t be thinking about others and their needs
 - 3. David didn’t see himself at first 2Sam 12:1-15

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF SELF-EXAMINATION

- A. Must be personal Ezek 18:20; Rom 14:12
- B. By right standard Prov 14:12; 2Cor 10:12; Jhn 12:48
- C. Must be thorough Eccl 12:14
- D. Must be honest Num 32:23; Prov 28:13
- E. Must be continuous 1Cor 9:27; Jas 1:25; 1Jhn 1:7

II. SELF-EXAMINATION IN LORD’S SUPPER

- A. Each Lord’s day we look in the mirror 1Cor 11:28
 - 1. This is not to determine if they are “in the faith”
 - 2. The same group Paul had previously indicted, but addressed them as the “church of God” 1Cor 1:2
- B. What is the purpose of this self-examination

- C. This examination has to do with the “manner” or the way in which they observed this memorial
 - 1. Not “am I worthy” to partake
 - 2. “Unworthily” = Thayer: 1) in an unworthy manner
- D. What do we do when we observe the Lord’s Supper
 - 1. We remember 1Cor 11:24,25
 - 2. We dedicate ourselves (covenant) 1Cor 11:25
 - 3. We proclaim 1Cor 11:26
 - 4. We anticipate 1Cor 11:26
 - 5. We have fellowship 1Cor 10:16,17
- E. “SO” let him eat 1Cor 11:28
 - 1. “So” (Strong’s: adverb; in this way (referring to what precedes or follows):--after that, after (in) this manner, as, even (so)
 - 2. Eat the Lord’s Supper in a manner that reflects the principles just described
 - 3. If not done properly one is guilty of the body and blood of Jesus 1Cor 11:27
- F. Not discerning the Lord’s body 1Cor 11:29
 - 1. Discerning = Thayer Definition: 1) to separate, make a distinction, discriminate, to prefer
 - 2. The idea here seems to emphasize the distinction between this spiritual feast and a common meal to satisfy hunger

CONCLUSION:

- A. Unworthy manner results in damnation
 - 1. One incurs condemnation or judgment
 - 2. Exposes themselves to Divine displeasure which ultimately results in punishment
 - 3. Results in being weak and sickly – sleep = death unsure if this is physical or spiritual – either way it seems to be the judgment of God because of the manner of their observance of the Lord’s Supper
- B. Obviously, in any examination one would want to make sure that they are a child of God and that all sins have been corrected.
- C. However, this examination has more to do with making sure we have a humble and contrite spirit and recognize the great sacrifice provided for us in the gift of God’s Son Psa 51:17
- D. The humblest and most obscure Christian with the feeblest faith and love may regard this feast as designed to set forth the death of his Redeemer and observing it properly can meet with Divine Approval