Daily Devotion #154

**Double and Triple Check**

**2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)** *“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?”*

One of the things I love to do is tinker on mechanical things. For me it is very relaxing. Maybe not so relaxing when something is broken that I can’t figure out or maybe when I am “fixing” something that is not broken, and I break it. But otherwise I really enjoy working with my hands that way.

And one of things I have learned through trial and error is to always double and triple check myself on whatever I am working on. That could be to remeasure something or make sure a screw is tightened all the way. If I rush too much and don’t double and triple check myself, I have found that my day doesn’t go so well. Like the time I had changed the oil in my truck and didn’t check the drain bolt to make sure it was tight after I had added new oil. Thankfully it was tight enough so that I didn’t lose any oil, but that could have been disastrous. Especially since I was away from home, and it was raining.

We can apply the same practice to spiritual things, especially our salvation. I’m not saying we need to continually ask the Lord to save us once we have truly surrendered our hearts to Him. He is faithful to save us just like He promised. And He will never let us go. (John 10:28-30)

But there are many who believe they have a saving relationship with Jesus but do not. And there are those who have all the appearance of being born again but are not. Jesus said, **Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS*.'”

It is possible to do all the outward things that appear to make us born again when inwardly our hearts are still wicked. And you can tell by what comes out of the heart. When I was in seminary, Dr. Elmer Towns would say, “What’s in the well, comes up in the bucket”. What’s in the heart of a person is eventually what will come out. If the Holy Spirit is living in the heart of an individual, then the words and actions of God will come out, but just the opposite is also true.

When the Apostle Paul wrote these verses to the Corinthian church, he was being accused of falsehood. He was treated as if he was not truly a follower of God. But Paul returned the negativity about himself by telling his accusers that if he were not a true Apostle then they were not true believers and they needed to examine their hearts. He knew he was a servant of God because God had called him personally to do God’s work of spreading the Gospel. (Acts 9) So, it was they who needed a heart check.

Beloved, it is easy to be deceived by Satan and our sin to think that we are following Christ when we are not. So it is critical to do a spiritual self-examination. This is reiterated by God is other places in Scripture. Such as in 1 Corinthians 11 where Paul gives the instruction to the church about Holy Communion and says we are to examine ourselves.

If there was a time in your life when you truly confessed your sinfulness to God and surrendered your life to Him, you can relax. Your salvation is secure in Jesus. He paid the debt for your sin once and for all. (Romans 6:8-11) But, if your life is still pulled into the world and all it offers in a sinful way, there is reason to be concerned.

Many people have lived outwardly good lives - helping others and doing good things, being kind, but they have never surrendered themselves to Christ, without which such action, there is no hope of salvation. (Acts 4:12) So, examine yourself; double and triple check and see if you are truly in the faith. Your heart will always expose the truth.