

Examine Yourself - 1/01/22

TEXT – *Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.*

INTRO – He asked of God a strict and rigid examination of his case. To express this, the psalmist uses three words - “examine; prove; try.”

The churches of Asia Minor had something against them. Something that could be better.

Ephesus – **A backsliding church** - *Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

Smyrna – **A persecuted church** – Nothing bad is said about this church.

Pergamos – **A worldly church** - *Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

Thyatira – **An unrepentant church** - *Revelation 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

Sardis – **A dying church** - *Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.*

Philadelphia – **A loving and serving church** – Nothing bad is said about this church.

Laodicea – **A lukewarm church** - *Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.*

I. Looking back at the blessings of God over the past year 2022

A. The goodness of God

Mortgage – Just over 1.2 Million from over 3 million in 2004

People saved – Especially VBS, bus ministry, books mailed, Youth fest

Tracts distributed – Over 10,000 along with several hundred books.

Staff added: Nathan Moore

Added missionaries – Robert Cepec: Guyana

Tom Behman: Philippines

The Youth group was able to provide over 100 packs to youth basketball players which included snacks, drinks, and tracts.

Facilitating events like the chili cook off, sports camps, and college care packages. Teen camp and the Alaska Missions trip were great opportunities to see lives changed and people saved.

God has supplied an environment to promote spiritual growth, strong Christian friendships, and an opportunity serve God and others

Academy

Sunday night fellowships

Senior meals

Purchased new bus

Salaries and Christmas bonuses increased

Graduates from the college

B. Our shortcomings

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

2 Corinthians 13:5 *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?*

Psalms 139:23 *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

1. A lack of Boldness

Acts 4:13 *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

Acts 4:29-31 *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*

Acts 13:46 *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles*

Ephesians 6:19-20 *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

1 Thessalonians 2:2 *But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.*

2. Weak praying

Eph. 6:18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Colossians 1:9 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

1 Samuel 12:23 *Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:*

3. Limited witnessing

Haggai 1:5-7 *Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. 7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.*

II. Looking Forward to the Future

50,000 Book mailings

Next Sunday I will announce the need to prepare for our 50th anniversary.

Just over two years to complete the pastoral transition.

The town is still interested in moving Spring Street If not you who?

A. Personal growth

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

Repent – The churches of Asia minor were compelled to repent

B. Church growth – Further His kingdom

C. Honoring God

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Jim Jones cult

Brother Julius

Hillsong etc.

CONCL –

If not you who?

If not here where?

If not now when?