

2 Corinthians 13:5
What is the Gospel? The Heart of Worship
December 6, 2009
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. The Heart of Worship

- A. Do you See God's Glory? (2 Cor. 4:4, 6)
- B. Everyone Worships

Key Idea

Throughout salvation history God tests our hearts in such a way that our true heart motives are displayed. We need to learn to ask these same heart questions of ourselves so that we will grow in Christ.

"It were an easy thing to be a Christian, if religion stood only in a few outward works and duties, But to take the soul to task, and to deal roundly with our own hearts, and to let the conscience have its full work, and to bring the soul into spiritual subjection unto God, This is not so easy a matter, because the soul out of self-love is loath to enter into itself, lest it should have other thoughts of itself than it would have." – Richard Sibbes

II. How are We to Examine/Test Ourselves?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

- A. How does God Test Our Hearts?
 - 1. He asks us to give up what is most precious to us (Gen. 22; Matt. 19:21-22)
 - 2. He puts us in circumstances that require us to trust him:
 - a. Abraham promised a son

- b. Israel in the wilderness
- c. Joseph (Psalm 105:17-19)
- d. Paul

2 Corinthians 1:8b

For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

- 3. He sends persecution for a season (Revelation 2:10-11)
- B. Why does God Test Our Hearts?
 - 1. To see if we fear Him

Genesis 22:12

...now I know that you *fear God*

- 2. To teach us to obey Him

Deuteronomy 8:2

... the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, *testing you to know what was in your heart*, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

- 3. To teach us to rely upon Him

Hebrews 3:7-12 (Unbelief in spite of the evidence)

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

2 Corinthians 1:9-10

⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. *But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God* who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again.

- 3. To reveal if our hearts are utterly devoted to Him **or** to harden you in your unbelief

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (testing with false prophets)

^{3b}For the Lord your God is *testing* you, *to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

⁹ The coming of **the lawless one** is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ *Therefore God sends them a strong delusion*, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- 4. To purify our faith in Jesus

Proverbs 17:3

The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and *the Lord tests hearts*.

1 Peter 1:6b-7

...now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ *so that the tested genuineness of your faith*—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

C. What is Our Self-Examination All About?

Romans 12:2 (Cf. Ephesians 6:5-9)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that *by testing you may discern what is the will of God*, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

“So don’t just look at overt behavior. Where are your affections? What gets you excited? Depressed? Afraid? Angry? Hopeless? What are these emotions saying about what you worship or what you love. These questions will begin to reveal if something other than Christ is controlling you.” – Ed Welch

- 1. Evidence of Grace
- 2. Need of Grace