

## **“Take a Look at Yourself!”**

Neal Pollard

How often have you been told to take a look at yourself by everyone from your Momma to Eric Clapton? So often, we are good at seeing others but we are not so keen in our self-examination. The apostle Paul urges the Corinthians to look at themselves and see where they are, spiritually. That is helpful advice for us today. Notice what Paul advises in 2 Corinthians 13:5: “Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”(NKJ) What does he urge?

**“Pressure Yourself.”** The broad meaning of the word here is “put to the test.” It can be a negative exercise, where one tries to put God to the test from hostile motives. It is the word translated “tempted” in Galatians 6:1. But, it can also be used in a positive way, as in 2 Corinthians 13:5. Paul is saying, “Put yourself to the test.” Louw and Nida put, “Determine the nature of something by submitting it to the test” (Gk.-Eng. Lex., 27.46). What thing is Paul telling them to put to the test to find out its nature? Their lives as measured by God’s Word. The concept of pressure-testing it is to look deeply and closely and find out, truly, if they each were continuing in the faith. That is an exercise which will require a lifetime of persistent effort, and it certainly leaves little time for pulling out the magnifying glass and the microscope on our brethren.

**“Prove Yourself.”** The meaning of “prove” is similar to the word translated “test” or “pressure.” Trench says it means “to approve after examination” (Synonyms, 278). The need was to keep themselves on the hook until they had been thoroughly, honestly examined by self. There is always plenty to see and evaluate in ourselves, enough to keep us busy every day.

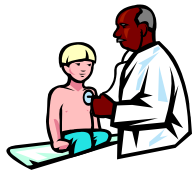
**“Perceive Yourself.”** What was it Paul wanted them to see in themselves? It was whether or not Christ was in them. If He was not, they had failed the test. When we look into the Bible and put yourself to the test, do you see from that examination that Christ is in you? We might be able to fool others, but we cannot fool ourselves. He cannot get in our hearts by wishing, feeling, hoping, or intending. Paul emphasizes “the faith” as crucial to this process.

Look closely at self. What do you see inside yourself? So pursue and live so that Christ is in you. When He is, He will shine forth through you!

Continue to remember in prayer:

# Sick

Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty & Walter Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Al Furrow, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Evelyn Scott, Ruth Stanton, Tanner Reed, Collin Gregory



- Danny White is now home.
- WJ Wood is in the VA Hospital.
- Lyn Anderson is on the second floor of the Richfield Nursing Facility.
- Luis Rivera, co-worker of Mitch Jearls, suffered a stroke last week. He is in RMH.

## Happy Birthday this week to:

Michele Nikkel—2/1

Hazel Maness—2/2

Lori Whitlow—2/2

Curtis Oakes—2/4

Nathan Pelfrey—2/4

Adam House—2/5



## Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan

Katy Halling—Haiti

Angela Halling—Haiti



## JANUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Clear packing tape & dry erase markers. (these items are desperately needed) Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



There's one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's.

## Upcoming Events:



See your Team Leader to see what's going on!

## Teens

### January Dates

January 31—Young Men conduct services.

### February Dates

Feb. 6—WYD—Christiansburg

Feb. 14—TBS

Feb 20—Mock Bible Bowl



Bible Bowl is set for March 6

Study Guides are available!

The Mock Bible Bowl has been rescheduled for Feb. 20th. at noon. It's for ALL youth to pre-test their Bible Bowl knowledge before the actual Bible Bowl on March 6th. Youth & Parents should reserve this date on their calendars now! Pizza will be available.

## WOW

The next regular meeting will be on February 9 at 10:30.

There will be a Wedding Reception on January 31 after evening services for



Matt & Melissa Marshall Yarbro.

They will be married in T□□□□□

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Salem. Gift suggestions include:

Home Improvement Gift Cards, Walmart/Kroger Gift Cards and Restaurant Gift Cards. Please join us to

# Weekly Reminders

## For Your Information

### SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

We will be collecting extra funds this week for the Haiti relief effort. All funds over our budgeted contribution will be sent to the Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, TN.

### EDUCATION APPRECIATION BANQUET

All Bible teachers and education workers/helpers, spouses, and special friends are invited to attend the Education Appreciation Banquet on February 6 at 5:45. Please sign up by today.

### EDP MEETING

There will be an EDP Meeting on February 7 at 4:00 in the fellowship hall.

### AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The Area Wide Preachers Meeting will be held at the Christiansburg congregation on Feb. 15 at 10:30.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

You still have time to sign up for this great workshop. February 18-20. See Poster in the hallway for details!

### SINGING WORKSHOP WITH BURT JONES

There will be a singing workshop on February 27 from 2-4 PM with Burt Jones. He will conduct a Song Leaders Training Class during Sunday Bible School and deliver a sermon during our worship time.

### 2009 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you will be needing letters for your 2009 contributions, please send the information to Tom, JoAnn or one of the elders as soon as possible. Thanks in advance!

### REMINDERS

Please turn off your cell phones and if you are the last one out of the building please check all lights (including bathrooms!) Thanks!

### THINK MAGAZINE

Some Great News! Focus Press received an order for THINK magazine to go into every Barnes & Noble bookstore as well as all Book-world stores in the country! Consider the possibilities for spreading New Testament Christianity through these outlets! To God be the glory!

### Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles	Collin Gregory
Lyn Anderson	Evelyn Scott
Martha Keith	Danny White
Miriam Majors	Tanner Reed
Walter & Betty Jenkins	Ruth Stanton
WJ Wood	Michelle Earnhart
Margaret Kratz	Jo Hartman
Jim Dorsett	Glenn & Ruth Hartman
E.V. Wimmer	Al Furrow
Charlie Puckett	Sandra Wood
Jo Musgrove	Gene Benefield
Luis Rivera	

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### FEBRUARY 2010

Announcements: Fred Altizer  
 Song Leader (AM): Jeff Durham  
 Communion: Charlie Maness (preside)  
 B. Martin, J. Black, H. Baker, M. Brooks  
 Prayer: Bob Garby (open)  
 Glenn Gabbard (close)  
 Next week prayer: Wayne Dixon (open)  
 Charlie Gwaltney (close)

Song Leader (PM): Adam House  
 Scripture Reader: Nathan Pelfrey  
 Prayer: Charles Maness (open)  
 Bob Martin (close)  
 Next week prayer: Mike Durham (open)  
 Roger Mays (close)  
 Communion: Danny Guard, Sam Valentine

Song leader (Wed): Bob Garby  
 Prayer: Garrett Durham  
 Next week prayer: Bradford Durham

Open/Close Building: Eric Earnhart  
 Greeters: Cooks, Gabbards  
 Nursery: Lori Cook (AM)  
 Paula Gibson (PM)  
 Ushers: David Brown, Curtis Oakes  
 Handouts: Cameron Brown, Greg Edwards  
 Prepare Communion: Shirley Baker  
 Amanda Brown

Attendance 1/24&27/10  
 Bible Class—146 Worship Service—156  
 Sunday Eve—118 Wednesday—135  
 Contribution—\$5138

# First 100 Days

## “Exceptions” to the Rule (8)

### Jan. 31 (Romans 15)

- Read Romans 15 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 15
  - Mutual concern (1-14)
  - Paul's plans for the future (15-33)
  - Memorize Rom. 15:4
- Write a note or card this week
- \*Increase your contribution by \$1 today

### Feb. 1 (Romans 16)

- Read Romans 16 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 16
  - Greetings to various people (1-16)
  - Dealing with apostasy (17-20)
  - Paul's co-workers and closing words (21-27)
  - Memorize Rom. 16:17

### Feb. 2 (Romans 1)

- Read Romans 1 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 1
  - Gentile world under sin (before the cross)
  - Memorize Rom. 1:16

### Feb. 3 (Romans 2)

- Read Romans 2 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 2
  - Jewish world under sin (before the cross)
  - Memorize Rom. 2:11

### Feb. 4 (Romans 3)

- Read Romans 3 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 3
  - Universality of sin
  - Memorize Rom. 3:23

### Feb. 5 (Romans 4)

- Read Romans 4 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 4
  - Illustrations of the law of faith
  - Memorize Rom. 4:7

### Feb. 6 (Romans 5)

- Read Romans 5 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 5
  - Blessings of obedient faith (1-11)
  - Contrasts between Adam's sin and Christ's atonement (12-21)
  - Memorize Rom. 5:8

We continue our look at the word “except,” an important word because it points out the exception(s) to the rule or statement given. In most instances, unless the exception(s) had been stated, the result(s) or consequence(s) would have been devastating.

In John 6:44 Jesus made the base statement, “No man can come to me.” Jesus had earlier stated, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Mt. 11:28). The “labor” under consideration in this passage is the burden of sin. Thus, if one is to have the burden of sin lifted he must come to Christ. And, since salvation is “in Christ” (II Tim. 2:10), and since one must be “in Christ” to obtain all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3); it is easy to see that coming to Christ is all important. In our original verse Jesus’ words continue: “...except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” Therefore, there is an exception to the rule that “no man can come to me.” That exception is that he must be drawn by the Father.

Some have perverted this passage (and others like it) to maintain that the work of salvation is done completely by God, that man has nothing to do. However, the context of John 6:44 reveals what the “drawing” involves. The reading continues: “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (Jn. 6:45). In order to come to Jesus and be drawn by the Father, one must be taught, hear and learn. He can then “come unto me” (through obedience to His will). This truth is likewise seen in Romans 10:13, 14, where the Bible states: “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” So, one who hears then believes, then calls upon the name of the Lord. According to Acts 22:16, “calling on the name of the Lord” is accomplished in the obedient act of baptism. Indeed, one must be “drawn to the Father,” and that is done through obedience (cf. Heb. 5:8, 9).

(To be continued.)

-Eddy