**Lesson 3 is entitled: Does it Matter: If I examine myself? Who do I see in the mirror?**

1. The Word of God presents many truths to us and one that we see that runs throughout the Bible is that we as mankind are sinners **(Ecclesiastes 7:20).**
   1. We see this same concept in other verses:
      1. 2 Chronicles 6:36; Psalm 143:2; Romans 3:9-10; Proverbs 20:9
      2. When we look at ourselves what type of person do, we see?
   2. The Bible displays servants of God who sinned against God:
      1. King David
      2. Moses (Numbers 20:11-12)
      3. Peter (Mark 14:66-72)
2. In noticing the shortfalls of all man, we should:
   1. Not use men as our examples in life (since we are all sinners). Men can lead others into behavior contrary to God’s Will.
   2. Follow Christ, because only He was sin free.
      1. 1 Peter 2:22
      2. Hebrew 4:15
      3. We can follow men who follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).
   3. We should prepare and develop ourselves to follow Christ faithfully.
      1. Be careful how we walk in life
         1. 1 Corinthians 9:25; 27
         2. 2 Corinthians 13:5-6
         3. Romans 8:13
      2. Be patient and be faithful
         1. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
         2. Revelation 2:10; James 1:12
3. How often do we neglect self-examination?
   1. 2 Corinthians 13:5
   2. The words “examine” and “test” are words that indicate a continuous effort.
4. Consider why we examine ourselves?
   1. In our work life, we try to improve upon our deficiencies or to improve upon weaknesses.
   2. In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul says to examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.
      1. The point he makes for us is to determine if we are faithful.
      2. 2 Timothy 1:13; Jude 3:2
      3. Unfortunately there is always the potential to drift away from the faith.
         1. Hebrews 2:1; 1 Corinthians 10:12
         2. 2 Peter 3:17
      4. Can we know what our standing before God is? Yes, we can.
         1. 2 Timothy 1:12
         2. Notice the word “know” and what it implies.
         3. 1 John 3:14
   3. To see if we really know ourselves.
      1. Sometimes it’s easy to get wrap up in the things we think we do well and it’s difficult to see our faults.
         1. Pharisee and Tax Collector (Luke 18)
         2. 2 Corinthians 10:18; Galatians 6:1-4
      2. Each one’s work will be tested (1 Corinthians 3:13)
5. There is only one standard to examine ourselves.
   1. Not by our standard (Galatians 6:3)
      1. 1 Corinthian 3:18, Proverbs 26:12
      2. Do we think more of ourselves than we should (Romans 12:3)?
   2. We should examine ourselves only through God’s Word.
      1. Many people perform only quick glances into the Word of God.
      2. James 1:22-25
   3. Measuring the temple of God (Revelation 11:1-2)
      1. Christians are described as the temple of God.
         1. 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16
         2. Ephesians 2: 19-21
      2. The stick to be used in measuring is the Word of God.
         1. The temple to be measured is the church
         2. The altar to be measured is the worship of the church
         3. The people to be measure (those who worship there) are Christians.
      3. Consider there was a need for measuring during this time as there is today.
         1. The only way to maintain God’s standard.
            1. It will let you know when one strays.
            2. God’s Word will provide you with the tools needed to make corrections in our lives.
         2. The church is to be measured by only one standard, God’s Word.
            1. It’s worship is to be measured by one standard.
            2. The church’s worshippers are to be measured by one standard.
      4. Unless we apply God’s Word to our lives, it does us no good.
6. Consider the following questions:
   1. Does Christ reside in me; am I in the faith?
   2. Do I despise sin and all those things that are contrary to God’s Will?
   3. How do I react to the Gospel of Christ? Do I share it with others?
7. Knowing our true state is the first steps in making corrections or a continuation of growth.

Lesson 3

God has never expected us to guess what His Will is as He has provided for us all His wonderful Word. We don’t have to wonder what behavior pleases Him and what behavior displeases Him. God’s Word provides us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) if we choose to obey it faithfully. If we take time to truly study God’s Word, we will see that it is clear and concise as to what God expects of those who bear the name Christian. We will also see that God’s Word’s is the only standard by which we should examine our lives. In 2nd Peter, Peter wrote to warn Christians about false teachers who were spreading false doctrine. The Christian life has a certain expectation. Note these verses from 2 Peter 1:2-11.

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, **3**as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4**by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30484c)]corruption *that is* in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, **6**to knowledge self-control, to self-control [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30486d)]perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **7**to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. **8**For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30488e)]barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9**For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. **10**Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; **11**for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

1. What does James say regarding self-examination (Consider James 1:22-25 and describe the two type of people that are seen in these verses)? **When we read the Word of God and identify deficiencies in our lives, how do we respond to them**?
2. As a Christian, if I fall into sin and refuse to repent (continuing in sin) what outcome should I expect according to Hebrews 10:26-39?
3. In Galatians 5:16-17, what is happening inside of every Christian?
4. Read Galatians 5:19-21. Why is it easy to see the “works of the flesh” in others but not ourselves? **Do** **you struggle with “works of the flesh**?”
5. Read Hebrews 12:1. Do you grow weary in your fight against sin? What makes this such a difficult fight in your life? How do you respond it?
6. Read the list of the fruit of the spirit that Paul discusses in Galatians 5:22-23. Are there any of these “fruits” that you could improve upon?
7. Reflect on your life before Christ and reflect on your life after being baptized into the body of Christ and consider whether you have changed spiritually? Have you grown in Christ or are you still the same person before baptism?
8. **James 4:14, tells us that our life is “It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” Do we know our standing before God? Have we looked at our lives through God’s standard?**