



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
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WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF ME?

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We are going to let God search us. We want to find out, if possible, just what He thinks. Our prayer will be the cry of the psalmist, **“Search me O, God, and know my heart: try me and see if there be any wicked way in me.”** And may He turn the searchlight of His Holy Spirit upon us until we are enabled to see ourselves as He sees us. We are not trying to find out what the world thinks of us...We are not even asking the opinions of our nearest and dearest friends. Even they may be deceived in us. **“Man looketh on the outward appearance but God looketh on the heart.”** We shall someday stand face-to-face with God; and then, in the sight of the whole universe, we shall be unveiled with the innermost secrets of our hearts laid bare. Is it not better to find out now what He thinks of us, and if He weighs us in the balance and we are found wanting, make up at once what we lack and get right with Him. So, I ask, **“What does God think of me?”** God who searches the heart - as He looks into mine - what does He find there? Am I well pleasing in His sight?

I. What does God think of my work? Does he find me genuine and sincere, free from all deception and a stranger to hypocrisy? Even if I blunder, the question is, Am I earnest? Sincere? Am I loyal to Him? Do I work from the heart, or are my labors merely professional? Am I selfish? Has money any influence in my decisions or plans? Am I genuine? Is my life counting for God? Does my life tell for Jesus? Am I able to lead others into a life of power and victory? Can I win souls for Christ? Do I try? Have I a message, or is my experience too shallow to mean anything to others? Do my unsaved friends know I am a Christian? **II. What does God think of my social relationships?** Have I obeyed His summons, **“Come out from among them and be ye separate,”** and **“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers”**? Can He smile upon me? Is there any pleasure that is driving Him from my heart and driving Him from me? Is my conscience at rest or does it trouble me when I do certain things or go certain places? Am I willing to give up all for Jesus, to choose Him before the world? Do I want to please Him, or am I going to argue and question with Him? Do I waste time that rightly belongs to Him? **III. What does God think of my devotional life?** Do I spend enough time with Him in private? Do I get alone with God? Is Jesus real? Does He fully satisfy? Am I a student of God’s Word? Do I study in private or is it all done in public? Do I claim His promises and make them mine? Is my life saturated with prayer? Do I get answers to prayer? Do I merely say prayers, or do I pray? Are my prayers availing? Is prayer a real vital thing to me? **IV. What does God think of my Christian progress?** Am I making progress in spiritual things? Am I a growing Christian? Am I better this year than last? Is Jesus more real to me? Can my friends see any difference in me? Are the old weaknesses and failings of the flesh disappearing? Is the fruit of the Spirit becoming increasingly mine? Am I making progress over sin - especially my besetting sin? Has it been conquered? Do I want to be delivered from it? Is some cherished idol shutting out His peace, His power and His presence, sunshine and love? Having honestly faced these four vital questions, what is the answer? We often testify that Jesus satisfies. But suppose we turn it around and ask, **“Is He satisfied with me?”** For all that matters, all that is important, what is our Lord’s estimate of us? Has He been disappointed...? Does He take delight in us? What does God think of me? - Oswald Smith. *~Sword of the Lord. (Continued)*

I think it could honestly be said that few Fundamental Baptists would measure up very well under such a test. I wonder how many of us will honestly face such a test? What about you? Are you willing to put God's searchlight upon your heart, upon your thoughts, your deeds? It is a most serious and valid question: What does God think of my Christian life? - My dedication, prayer life, Bible reading, separation, witnessing, giving, attitude, service, etc. That is exactly what you are going to have to face at the Judgment Seat of Christ! It won't be what you think, but what God thinks! What a difference it would make if we would all take this subject seriously and correct that which is faulty or lacking in our Christian lives. I hear a lot of talk about revival, but I do not see much evidence of it! The basic problem is, few of God's people are willing to examine themselves and repent as the Lord admonishes.

WHERE CHURCH MEMBERS COME FROM.

Combined statistics generally show that people attend a certain Church for the following reasons:

Through radio and TV ministries.....less than 1%.
Through Sunday School outreach.....3% to 8%.
Walk in on their own initiative.....3% to 8%.
Because of a special program.....4% to 10%.
Through a visit by the Pastor.....10% to 20%.
Through special evangelistic meetings.....10% to 25%.
Brought by a friend or relative.....60% to 90%.

If we really want to see people saved and the Church grow,
we all need to witness and extend a personal invitation for others to attend Church with us!
It is God's plan: **"Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in."**
What a difference it would make if we ALL did that every week!

**One of the two which heard John *speak*, and followed
him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith to him,
We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted,
the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus...**

John 1:40-42

**Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith to him,
We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the
prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.
And Nathanael said to him,
Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?
Philip saith to him, Come and see.**

John 1:45-46

YOUTH CORNER

FOUNDING FATHERS AND CHRISTIANITY! The fundamental principles concerning the place of religion in our land have been completely perverted. The founding fathers never intended there be no public expression or acknowledgement of God, and Yes, even of Christianity. Probably only a few of our founding fathers were “born again” Christians, but most if not all professed some sort of Christianity and believed it to be the religion of America. We could give hundreds of references, here are just a few brief quotes:

Benjamin Franklin: When the Constitutional Convention was getting nowhere and seemed doomed to failure Franklin said: “...how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God governs in the affairs of men.”

George Washington: “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.” He was not a deist as many have written but a life-long member of the Episcopal Church. Henry Muhlenberg said of him: “I heard ...Gen. Washington rode around his army yesterday admonishing everyone to fear God...and to practice the Christian religion.”

John Adams - 2nd President: “Suppose a nation... should take the Bible for their only Book...What a Utopia would that region be.” “As I understand the Christian religion, it was, and is, a revelation.”

James Madison - 4th President: “Cursed be the learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ.” “Religion is the foundation of government.”

Andrew Jackson - 7th President: “I have been brought up a rigid Presbyterian to which I have always adhered.” Referring to the Bible, he said: “That Book, Sir, is the Rock upon which our Republic rests.”

Daniel Webster: “The Gospel is either true history or it is a consummate fraud...there is no other alternative...The Gospel of Jesus Christ must be a divine revelation.”

Abraham Lincoln: “I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of the Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail.”

These were not merely private sentiments but were largely made on public forums. Our people have been brain-washed by agnostic and atheistic liberals. God help America - if it's not too late!

DON'T DIALOGUE WITH THE DEVIL! I am sure most of the adults have heard this old and amusing story but perhaps many young people haven't. It bears repeating, for there is a much needed lesson in it. A hunter was out in the woods and seeing a large bear, he took aim. Just as he was about to pull the trigger, the bear said, “Wait a minute; can't we talk this over?” The startled man lowered his rifle and the bear spoke again: “What is it you want?” The man answered, “I want a fur coat.” The bear replied, “Well, that's good; all I want is a full stomach. Maybe we can sit down and negotiate a compromise.” So, they sat down on a nearby log to negotiate the matter. After a short time, the negotiations were successful. The bear walked away alone. The bear had a full stomach and the hunter had his fur coat.

Young people, Satan is always saying, “Let's negotiate.” He says, “You don't have to be so strict; you can give a little here and cut corners a little there. What difference will it make?” God says, “**Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**” We are warned about the “**wiles of the devil.**” He is extremely clever and you are no match for him. He will win everytime! And unless you obey God and keep strictly to the Word of God, he will “eat you up.” God also says don't let the devil get advantage over you - that is don't put yourself in a place where he has the upper hand. If you are saved, he wants to destroy your usefulness for God and literally ruin your life and testimony. If you are worldly, seek the company of the unsaved or carnal Christians, you are a prime target for Satan. It has happened to many; don't let it happen to you! Resist the him with the word of God and reject his enticements or you will end up like the hunter.

A LESSON WE ALL NEED! A famous Harvard professor, Charles Copeland, was asked by a student, “Is there anything I can do to learn the art of conversation?” Mr. Copeland replied, “Yes, there is one thing and if you will listen, I will tell you.” For several moments there was silence. Then, the student said, “I'm listening, professor.” “You see,” replied the professor, “you are learning already.” God says, “**...let every man be swift to hear and slow to speak...**” Sad to say few listen to God on this score. When you are talking, you are not learning. This is an especially true of some who would like to tell others what to do, but they themselves never learned to listen. Young people, no matter how much you may think you know, you have a lot to learn and if you will listen to God and the right people, you will learn a lot easier and save yourself much trouble.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Vance Havner's advice for preachers: "Alexander Whyte says to preachers, 'Your people will not care one straw what you say from the pulpit if you sup heartily with them afterward.' John Bunyan said many a sermon was lost in Sunday dinner. G. Campbell Morgan spoke of more prophets being ruined by eating out than in any other way. Robert Murray McCheyne warned of the preacher's being too much a lover of good eating; and Charles Finney said, 'Do not make the impression that you are fond of good dinners and like to be invited out to dine. It will be a snare to you and a stumbling block to them.' I used to think of the preachers in my boyhood days as stern, and they were. But I prefer them to the hale-fellow-well-met who starts out to be the life of the party and finds out it is the death of the prophet. When a pastor gets to the place that his parishioners call him by his first name, he's in trouble. He's not supposed to be 'one of them'; he is supposed to be ahead of them. The preacher who jokes and jests too much cannot stand on Sunday and reprove, rebuke and exhort." Havner was right, but this exhortation won't go over too well with many preachers, who have swallowed the world's philosophy that in order to get them to listen to you, you must first have them like you. That is nothing but worldly psychology and a lie of the devil. It may be nice to have people like you, but is that what we are here for. It sounds as though we have to accomplish the work of God by our own powers and cleverness rather than by the Holy Spirit. Was Jesus everybody's pal? Did He tell jokes? Most of us, preachers and lay people alike, are laughing when we should be crying and enjoying this life when we should be crucified to it. Happiness is the goal, not holiness! You can't find any prophets or preachers in the Word of God who were just one of the boys. **"Beware when all men speak well of you."**

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WHY NO REVIVAL

F.B. Meyer said he pleaded with God for revival for many years, but revival never came. In despair, he gathered the congregation together and rolled the burden on the people, saying, "I have done all I could; it is now for you to consider your attitude toward God." A gray-haired brother arose and said, "Sir, I do not marvel that there is no revival. There never will be a revival as long as Brother Jones and I don't speak to each other." Before the congregation, he went over to Brother Jones and said, "Brother, forgive me. For ten years we have not spoken to one another; let's bury the hatchet." They made peace right there. There followed a great silence. Finally, a deacon arose and said, "Pastor, there can never be revival in this place as long as I say fair things to your face and mean things behind your back. Please forgive me!" He was immediately forgiven. For the next twenty minutes members rose to square accounts with their fellow Christian men and women - and throughout an awful stillness filled the place. Then the Spirit of God came in mighty power, bringing revival. If revival ever comes it will have to begin in the local Church. Before it can begin in the local Church, it must begin with the members of the Church - revival is a one by one process. The plain truth is very few Christians want revival. They would rather go on in their own selfish way than humble themselves and get right with God and fellow believers. **"If my people... shall humble themselves...and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear..."**