

I'm doing and can get the attitude, What can I learn? How can I improve? How can I accomplish more? How can I make my life accomplish more?

Examine yourselves, Paul said. To examine ourselves and to do this frequently, can make a tremendous difference all through our lives. I think these two words of Paul: Examine yourselves, they could be written in big letters in front of every one of us and we could remember them as we go through life and prevent making the same mistakes over and over because we don't stop to think of how we could have done better, how we could improve. I think it would make a tremendous difference with the accomplishments of every one of us. Examine yourselves.

But of course Paul went on to say, Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith. I believe that is tremendously important for everyone of us who know the Lord. Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith. That has various viewpoints. The immediate thing we think of "whether you be in the faith" is your doctrine; your viewpoint; your understanding. You make a statement about something in relation to Scripture and somebody criticizes it. And immediately we become angry and we become stronger in the statement we made! Instead of saying, Just a minute. Perhaps I over-spoke myself. Perhaps I've been wrong in my understanding on this point. Let's go to the Scripture. Let's investigate. Let us find out.

Do not become too determined in the way -- the particular way in which you express a doctrine, in which you express a Scriptural truth. Someone else may be way off in the ideas they have, but the fact that they criticize you on this point may mean that you have expressed it poorly. You put more stress on one aspect of it than it deserves. Examine the Scripture and see what you should believe and what perhaps you are not quite understanding correctly; ~~but~~ not quite expressing correctly. Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith!

This is important in connection with the faith--in connection with the understanding the body of truth that we have. It is equally important in connection to our relation to ~~the~~ Christ. It is not what we know about Christ that is most important; it is not what we think about Christ that is most important. What is most important is our attitude to Him.

As you go through day after day, examine ~~the~~ yourself. Have you shown forth the glory of Christ in this day? Have you truly represented Christ this day? Have you shown the loving spirit that he wants you to toward people perhaps that have criticized you or have disagreed with you on some particular point? Has your attitude been such as to attract you to what you believe rather than to irritate them and drive them away from what you stand for? Are you developing those qualities that will make you a better servant of Christ? Examine yourself whether you be in the faith!

What about your personal relation to the Lord? You meet a man like the professor in Cornell who had such a great following