

SYNC: Let's Take An Exam

(II Corinthians 13:5-10)

Introduction

A) Most people do not like taking tests. Whether it is the effort of preparation that causes this response or the sense of being judged, most do not like taking tests.

Some people are good at taking tests and others struggle. Usually, those that study more are better at taking tests.

About three years ago, it was encouraged to get my Class "B" Commercial Driver's License. The primary difference between a Class "C" and a Class "B" is the size vehicle you can drive and the air brake endorsement. I failed the "air brake test" by one question.

B) Contextualize this sermon in the series, SYNC.

C) Contextualize 2 Corinthians 13.

(Paul in challenging the Corinthians to take self-inventory. The expected result is that they determine themselves as genuinely transformed proving his apostleship.)

D) Throughout the Bible, God's people are called to take spiritual inventory.

I. The Call to Self-Examination

Principle: *A spiritual inventory is a necessary and regular activity to ensure you are following God's plan faithfully.*

A) The challenge to self-examination (13:5)

B) The purpose of the exam (13:5)

C) The potential results (13:5)

II. Warnings to those NOT “in the faith”

Principle: *More than simply grasping the facts of the gospel, true spiritual conversion is the transformation of the heart and life of a sinner.*

A) The Danger of Neglecting One's Salvation (*Heb. 2:1-3*)

B) The Danger of Hardening One's Heart
(*Hebrews 3:7-12; 4:1-2*)

C) The Danger of Not Progressing Spiritually
(*Hebrews 6:1-6*)

D) The Danger of Drawing Back
(*Hebrews 10:26-29*)

E) The Danger of Refusing to Listen to and Obey God
(*Hebrews 12:25*)

III. Characteristics of Those “In The Faith”

Principle: *Genuine conversion is characterized by ongoing outward evidence.*

A) Transformation (13:5)

B) Obedience (13:7)
(Genuine believers desire to obey God in all matters)

C) Righteousness (13:7)
(Genuine believers possess a love for what is right)

D) Truth (13:8)
(Genuine believers possess a passion for truth)

E) Spiritual progress (13:9)

(Genuine believers demonstrate ongoing spiritual growth)

Conclusion