Self-Inspection

Intro: Paul encourages us to inspect ourselves as he writes to the Corinthians; 2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” When we look at ourselves, we can see whether or not we are in the faith or reprobates. Let us, in this lesson, consider three aspects of inspecting ourselves.

I. HOW I SEE MYSELF
   A. This must be one of the most difficult things to do.
      1. It is difficult to be honest with ourselves.
      2. So often we overlook our own faults even though we see them in others.
      3. I still think of myself as someone who is around 30 years-old, instead of entering retirement age.
   B. Consider the Pharisee and Publican
      1. Luke 18:9-14 “And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”
      2. The Pharisee:
         a. He was self-satisfied.
            (1) He thought himself good and only saw those qualities.
            (2) He did not actively do evil.
         b. He trusted in himself that he was righteous.
         c. He despised others.
         d. He did not see his true state.
      3. The publican:
         a. A picture of true humility.
         b. He was aware of his weaknesses.
            (1) We all have weaknesses.
            (2) We all have our limitations.
         c. He was justified in God’s sight.
   C. How do we see ourselves: honestly or a clouded view?

II. HOW OTHERS SEE US.
   A. In one sense, it does not matter, but in another it does.
   B. We are examples in that others are looking at us.
      1. 2 Cor. 3:2 “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:”
      2. 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
   C. Others should see us as shining lights in the world.
      1. Mat. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
2. 1 Pet. 2:12 “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

3. Christ living in us:
   a. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
   b. Phi. 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
   c. Col. 1:27 “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

III. HOW GOD SEES ME

A. This is the one who really matters.
   1. We might deceive ourselves and others.
   2. God’s assessment of us will be true.

B. He truly knows us.
   1. Psa. 139.
      a. God knows what we do and our thoughts; Psa. 139:1-4 “1 O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.”
      b. God is everywhere (omnipresence); Psa. 139:7-12 “7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”
      c. A plea for God to examine his life;
         (1) Psa. 139:23-24 “23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
         (2) Are we willing to ask God to examine our life?
   2. We can look into the mirror of God’s Word and see how He sees us.
      a. 1 Cor. 13:12 “12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”
      b. Jam. 1:22-25 “22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
   
C. Because He truly knows us, He can judge us righteously.
   1. Ecc. 12:14 “14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”
   2. Rom. 2:16 “16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

Conclusion: How do you see yourself, how do others see you? The only real thing that matters is: How does God see you? If He would not place you on the right hand of Jesus, then change your ways today.