

Examine Everything Carefully

I Thess 5: 20-22

Examine Everything Carefully

- Paul is addressing this young church with a flurry of directives as he close this letter
 - Vs 16.....rejoice always
 - Vs 17.....pray without ceasing
 - Vs 18....always be thankful
 - Vs 19....do not quench the Spirit
 - Vs 20....do not despise prophetic utterances
 - Vs 21....Examine everything carefully
 - Hold fast to what is good
 - Vs 22...abstain from every form of evil

Examine Everything Carefully

- Why did Paul include the directive to “examine everything carefully?”
 - II Thess 2: 1-2....
 - Do not be quickly shaken
 - Do not be disturbed
 - By a spirit or a letter
 - As if from us...
 - II Thess 2: 15...
 - Whether by word of mouth
 - Or by letter

Examine Everything Carefully

- Already in Paul's ministry there were false things creeping in
 - Judaizers
 - You must adhere to the law of Moses
 - You must abstain from certain foods; observe holy days
 - Epicureans.....what the body does is separate from the soul.
 - Essenes.....they were the monks of his day
 - Pharisees.....constantly looking for ways to control the people through various rules etc...
 - Sadducees.....really did not believe in anything, they just craved power

Examine Everything Carefully

- What Paul is doing is telling this young church is the very thing Jesus said to His disciples
 - Matt 24: 4..."see to it that no one deceives/misleads you"
- Vs 20....what is Paul telling them?
 - First...the "prophetic" comes from the word propheteias" which means....
 - To stand up and proclaim/interpret the Word and will of God

Examine Everything Carefully

- Paul is saying to this church
 - Examine “dokimazo” what is being said
 - The word means to “test, analyze or prove”
 - We have a word for that testing
 - It is called “discernment”
- Then once you have examined what is said carefully
 - “Hold fast to that which is good”
 - Now there is a question we must address....

Examine Everything Carefully

- Why is this as important today as in Paul's day?
 - What is the modern church's greatest sin?
 - It is the lack of discernment!!
 - II Cor 11: 4.... For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."
- How does this happen?
 - It happens when the church no longer see things as black and white....rather it looks for the gray

Examine Everything Carefully

- What does the Bible tell us?
 - There are two ways a person can live
 - There is God's way and all others
- Note the clear definitions in God's Word
 - Two trees in the garden
 - One forbidden, the others allowed
 - Two paths
 - There is a wide path to destruction
 - There is a narrow leading to life
 - A person will spend eternity heaven or hell....

Examine Everything Carefully

- There are the saved and the lost
- There is no other name given under heaven by which one must be saved....no other!!!
- The kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness
- The kingdom of God, the kingdom of Satan
- But these things are no longer preached..
 - Why?
 - Because the church is afraid to offend anyone
 - Let's just go along to get along

Examine Everything Carefully

- Question....what the praise for the Berean church?
 - They searched the Scriptures
 - They were actively involved in discernment
- Note the following
 - Prov 16: 21..."The wise in heart will be called discerning"
 - Prov 2: 1-7
 - "if you cry for discernment"

Examine Everything Carefully

- Job 28: 1-11
 - Job speaks of various things
 - Mining techniques, flights of birds, other animals
 - Then in Vs 12 the great question is asked
 - Where can wisdom be found?
 - Then in Vs 13-28....Job receives his answer
- The fear of the Lord is wisdom
- And to depart from evil is understanding

Examine Everything Carefully

- Abstain from every form of evil
 - We all know what abstinence means
 - It does not mean moderation
 - It does not mean doing less
 - It means not doing it at all
- Examine everything.....
 - Let a man examine himself
 - James 1: 19-25
 - Be a doer not just a hearer

Christ in Me

Christ in Me

- What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
- There is no more for heaven now to give
- He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom
- My steadfast love and deep and boundless peace

Christ in Me

- To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
- For my life is wholly bound to Him
- Oh how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine
- Yet not I but through Christ in me.

Christ in Me

- The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
- For by my side, the Savior He will stay
- I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
- For in my need His power is displayed

Christ in Me

- To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
- Through the deepest valley He will lead
- Oh the night has been won
- And I shall overcome
- Yet not I but through Christ in me

Christ in Me

- No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
- The future sure, the price it has been paid
- For Jesus bled and died for my pardon
- And He was raised to overthrow the grave

Christ in Me

- To this I hold my sin has been defeated
- Jesus now and ever is my plea
- Oh the chains are released, I can sing I am free
- Yet not I but through Christ in me

Christ in Me

- With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
- For He has said that He will bring me home
- And day by day, I know He will redeem me
- Until I stand with joy before the throne

Christ in Me

- To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
- All the glory evermore to Him
- When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
- Yet not I but through Christ in me
- To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus