

# ***LBC Discipleship Course***

## **Know Christ & Make Him Known Lesson 2: "Are You Truly In Christ?" (TC)**

How do I know if I am truly in Christ? Am I prepared to meet God?

**II Corinthians 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?"

**I Corinthians 15:1-2** "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

We are not to judge others salvation but are called in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to examine ourselves if we are in the faith. There are many things in life I want to be sure of. The greatest of all that I need to be certain of is my relationship with Christ. I do not want go through my life thinking I am right with God only to find out at judgment day that I was wrong. There is One Judge and only One that matters and that is the Lord. Scripture tells us we will stand before Him:

**Romans 14:12** "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Ask yourself the following 8 exam questions to examine yourself if you be in the faith:

### **1. EXAM QUESTION #1: When I "BELIEVED" WAS THERE A CHANGE?**

- a. **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become new.**"
- b. The Result of Receiving the True Gospel: There has been a Definite Change.
- c. You cannot meet Jesus and remain the same. He is a fork in the road of your life. He demands a decision, accept Him or reject Him. He came to interfere with your life.
- d. Can you look back and see a noticeable change in your life?
- e. Repentance equals change. To repent of your sin is to turn from your sin! Repentance is required where salvation is present.
  - i. **2 Corinthians 7:9-10** "Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For **godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation** not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."
  - ii. **Luke 13:3** "I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent**, ye shall all likewise perish."

### **2. EXAM QUESTION #2: ARE YOU BEING CONFORMED TO JESUS CHRIST?**

- a. **Romans 8:29** " For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [**to be**] **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."
- b. Conformity to Christ. God is doing a work of progressive sanctification.

- c. Do you look, act, talk, behave and interact with others more like Christ today than you did prior? He is doing a work in His children. If there is not change and conforming to His image then the question must be asked, why? Am I His?
- d. **Philippians 1:6** "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you **will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:**"
- e. **Ephesians 2:10** "**For we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

### 3. EXAM QUESTION #3: WHO AM I FOLLOWING: CHRIST OR ANOTHER?

- a. **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."
- b. The Result of Receiving the True Gospel: You follow Christ! Your days, deeds, dollars are evidence of this as you follow Christ.
- c. There are 2 Gates. The Broad Gate is where the world enters and is walking currently walking on the broad path. The Born Again enter the Narrow Gate and begin a journey on the narrow path.
- d. It's more than a Gate however, there are also Two Paths. Are you Continuing on the Narrow Way? The Narrow Way has the minority of people? Are you on the Broad Path? In America today 80% profess to be Christians. Why then is our society as it is today? Very few truly possess a relationship with Christ.
  - i. Billy Graham has questioned the number of true converts among all the professions.
  - ii. It is said that the Puritans didn't need to count the decisions, that the genuine conversions would faithfully show up week after week.
- e. The gate and the way go hand in hand, you can't start in one gate and end up on another way. That's called living a lie and is a result of profession without possession.

### 4. EXAM QUESTION #4: WHAT TYPE OF FRUIT DO I HAVE?

- a. **Matthew 7:15-20** "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**"
- b. There are Two Prophets mentioned here. False & True.
  - i. False Prophets, False Professions and Broad Paths are characterized by corrupt fruit, thistles, bad crops, thorns...
  - ii. True prophets, True possessions and the narrow path reflects the right fruit that is edible and tangible of bearing right fruit!
- c. Your fruit shows what you are! God is the fruit inspector!
  - i. **Matthew 7:20** "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."
- d. The fruit from your life will indicate who you belong to.

### 5. EXAM QUESTION #5: AM I DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER?

- a. **Matthew 7:21-23** " Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
- b. It is not in what we say but in our very deeds.
- c. There are 2 Professions: True & False! The most important thing is not, do you know Jesus! These were convinced He was their Lord! The most important thing in all the WORLD is not do you know Jesus but does Jesus know you?
  - i. **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
  - ii. **John 10:27-30** " My sheep hear my voice, **and I know them,** and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand. I and [my] Father are one."
- d. "LORD, LORD"... Someone believing themselves to be a "CHRISTIAN" said this... Is your life being lived according to the will of your Father in heaven? (Matthew 7:21b) Does your will align with His?
- e. **Proverbs 3:5-6** "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**"
- f. False Professions work a life of iniquity – lawlessness and refuse to have this man to reign over us and thus continue to disobey the will of God.

## 6. EXAM QUESTION #6: AM I LIVING MY LIFE IN OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD?

- a. There are 2 Foundations we can build our lives upon:
  - i. **Matthew 7:24-27** "Therefore whosoever **heareth** these sayings of mine, and **doeth** them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a **rock:** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that **heareth** these sayings of mine, and **doeth them not,** shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the **sand:** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."
  - ii. The rock is living a life built upon God's Word and living in obedience to his Word.
  - iii. The sand is living a life built upon man's ideas and opinions and living contrary to the Word of God.
  - iv. How are you Days Spent? Your Dollars? Your Deeds? Your Decisions Made? Is God's Word the foundation for your decisions in life? Are you building your life brick by brick upon the precious Word of God?
  - v. **Psalms 119:105** "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

- vi. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

7. **EXAM QUESTION #7: HAVE I BEEN CORRECTED & CHASTISED BY THE HEAVENLY FATHER WHEN I STRAY?**

- a. **Hebrews 12:5-8** "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: **For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. **If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons**; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."
- b. When you are born again & God becomes your Father, He leads you and when you get off the narrow way He lovingly corrects you to get back on it.
- c. Where there is no correction there is cause for concern. It is the Holy Spirit (God in us) that convicts us of sin. Where there is no conviction there is no Holy Spirit. Where there is no Holy Spirit there is no salvation.
- i. **John 16:7-11** "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

8. **EXAM QUESTION #8: AM I WALKING IN CHRIST TODAY?**

- a. **I Corinthians 15:1-2** "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and **wherein ye stand**; By which also ye are saved, **if ye keep in memory** what I preached unto you, **unless ye have believed in vain.**"
- b. Once you have received the Truth, you stand in the Truth and you keep and hold fast to the Gospel!
- c. **I John 2:19** "They went out from us, but they were not of us; **for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us**: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."
- d. Are you still faithfully following Christ? You aren't in this for a time and then out. Once in Christ, always in Christ and you will endure to the end! Perseverance of the Saints –Such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.
- e. **John 8:30-31** "As he (JESUS) spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **IF ye continue in my word, THEN are ye my disciples indeed;**"
- f. Additional Scripture References: Col. 1:21-23, I John 2:19, Matt. 13:19-21, Rom. 8:28, Psalm 121:3, Heb. 1:14, I Pet. 1:5, Philippians 1:6, John 10:28-30, Romans 8:35-38

The question is not have you prayed a pray with your lips, but are you in Christ today? It is not something you did at one point in your life but something you continue to do! Have you repented and do you continue to repent? Have you believed and do you continue to believe? Have you been changed and continue to change? Who are you following, Christ or culture? Are you on the narrow gate and narrow path, producing good fruit, making the right profession that evidences itself in doing the will of God, are you building your life on hearing and heeding the Rock of the Word of God and not the popular sands of man? Are you disciplined by your Heavenly Father when you stray? Are you enduring to the end?

**II Corinthians 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?”

**The Choices:**

1. Receive the Gospel and be genuinely saved.
2. Continue living a lie holding onto a prayer your lips prayed and your life doesn't reflect.
3. Keep the faith and persevere to the end if this exam confirmed your salvation.