“Examining the Heart” Week 1 *Sermon Notes*

November 1, 2026

Main Idea: We are saved *from* sin and judgment *for* God’s purposes, in this time and place, to live as His people and point others to Jesus.

Key Scriptures:

- **Ephesians 2:8–10** — Saved by grace for good works God prepared in advance.
- **Psalm 139:14–16** — God personally formed us and knows our days.
- **Acts 17:22–31** — Paul preaches in Athens: God created all, rules over nations, and calls all people to repent.
- **2 Peter 3:3–13** — Since judgment is coming, we should live holy and godly lives.
- **2 Corinthians 4:16–18** — Fix your eyes on eternal things, not temporary things.
- **Galatians 2:19–20** — We live by faith in Christ, who lives in us.

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1. We Are Saved from Something for Something.

- **Ephesians 2** reminds us that we were once dead in sin and objects of wrath, but God, rich in mercy, saved us by grace.
- But salvation is not only rescue from judgment. It is also a calling into purpose.
- “*We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.*” God has prepared good works for each believer to walk in.

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2. God Knows You Personally.

- **Psalm 139** teaches that God formed us in the womb and knew our days before they came to be.
- **God knows:**
  - Your past, Your mistakes, Your weaknesses, Your story, Your calling.
  - He made you, and in Christ, He is *remaking* you for His purposes.

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3. God Placed Us in This Time and Place.

- In **Acts 17**, Paul tells the people of Athens that God determines the times and places of nations. This means our lives are not accidental. We were made for:
  - This generation, this country, this community, this church, this moment in history.
- God’s mission is not at risk, even when nations rise and fall.

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4. The Call Is Repentance, Not Mere Belief.

- Paul says God now commands all people everywhere to repent.
- Repentance is more than agreeing with facts about Jesus. **It is a change of heart and lordship.**

It means surrendering:

- Our own plans, our own control, our own throne, our own version of happiness. Jesus is not just Savior; He is Lord.

5. We Must Not Be Distracted from the Real Battle.

- The enemy often uses cultural, political, and personal concerns to distract Christians from the deeper spiritual battle.
- Issues matter, but the ultimate issue is eternal: There are only two final categories of people: **saved and unsaved.**
- The church's mission is to help people know Jesus and enter His kingdom.

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6. We Are Called to Live Holy and Godly Lives.

- Peter asks: "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?"
- The answer: *holy and godly*. To be holy means to be set apart for God's use.
- We cannot live fully for our own purposes and also be fully available for God's mission.

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7. Our Testimony Is a Powerful Weapon.

- Paul's life was changed because he encountered the risen Jesus.
- Likewise, one of the greatest tools we have is our testimony:
  - What has Jesus done in your life?
  - How has He changed you?
  - How is He using you?

OUR LIVES SHOULD POINT PEOPLE TO THE SAVIOR.

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8. We Are Stewards of Our Time, Gifts, and Resources.

- Everything we have has been entrusted to us by God:
  - Time, Money, Gifts, Energy, Influence, Opportunities.
- We are called to manage them for the King and His mission, not merely for our comfort or personal dreams.

Application Questions:

1. Am I living as though I was saved for a purpose?
2. What distractions are pulling my heart away from God's mission?
3. Have I truly repented, or have I only intellectually believed?
4. How can I use my testimony to point someone to Jesus?
5. Am I storing up treasure on earth or investing in eternity?
6. Where is God calling me to serve in this time and place?

Closing Reminder:

- God does not need us, but He invites us into His mission because it changes the world and changes us. Why? Because **we were made for these days.**
- We are called to be a city on a hill, drawing attention to Jesus, the true Savior.