**These Perilous Times**

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**“Spiritual Evaluation”**

 Again, another year has gone by and entered the chronicles of history forever. Many of us have, and will make “New Year’s” resolutions.

 It’s spiritually healthy to envision new initiatives, especially concerning the spiritual growth of our ministries for another year.

 What has been my *custom* is taking a *prayerful* inventory of the ministries that the Lord has entrusted me with during the past year. Then through an evaluation process (what was and was not spiritually productive for winning souls) decide what positive changes must be made to become better equipped spiritually for the circulation of the *gospel*!

**Notice Paul’s words concerning self-inventory**

“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*?”

 II Corinthians 13:5 (Emphasissupplied

 According to Paul, *Christ* cannot *dwell in anyone* who is found to be a reprobate (Gr. *adokimoi-*literally “test failers,” sinners, degenerate-Failure to pass the test was evidence that Christ was not in them (***us***) and that they (***we***) were not genuine Christians, Emphasis supplied). [[1]](#footnote-1) In other words examine oneself by looking to Jesus, look at His righteous character.

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 The “spiritual criterion” for self-examination is *Christ and Him alone*. Our favorite Christian Brothers and Sisters are not to be used as a measurement of our righteousness (which like us, is nothing more than filthy rags) regardless of how spiritually they may appear!

**Notice the words of David**

“***Examine me***, ***O Lord***, and prove me; *try my reins and my heart*.” Psalms 26:2

(Emphasis supplied)

 According to Jeremiah our own hearts cannot not to be trusted. [[2]](#footnote-2)

 Every true believer wants to, and must grow in Christ, so their ministries will prosper, fulfilling the *gospel commission*. And the only “*spiritual growth hormone”* I’m aware of is the indwelling of God’s Spirit!

**Good News, We’re not Alone!**

“But the ***Comforter*** *which is* ***the Holy Ghost***, whom *the* ***Father will send*** *will teach you all things and bring all things* to your remembrance *whatsoever I have said unto you*.”

John 14:26Emphasis supplied

 Of all the evangelistic tools that are made available to God’s “Remnant People” to win souls for Christ’s kingdom, there is none more essential than the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If you don’t have Him leading your ministries in 2018 **you will fail!**

We are God’s chosen people for the last days to propagate the “Everlasting Gospel.” Let’s finish the work saints!

“But you are a *chosen generation*, *a royal priesthood*, *an holy nation*, *a peculiar people* that *you should show forth praises of him* *who* hath *called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*.” I Peter 2:9 Emphasis supplied

**Amen!**



1. SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 927. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jeremiah 17:9 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)