

A Seamen
from

2 Corinth: XIII, 5 (part of)

Examine yourselves, whether ye be
in the faith prove ye on selves.

~~To know ourselves, to know our own
hearts, to know in what relation we
stand towards God, to know our ruling
sentiments, the ^{or the} principles
by which we are ^{governed} influenced, ^{is the first requisite}
~~Knowledge of ourselves, of the nature
importance, and necessity of
directing up to a certain point, is
the earnest self examination.~~
A searching inquiry into our real
character, our ~~religious principles and~~
~~our spiritual attainments, before the~~
our religious principles, our spiritual relation~~

To know the
true state of
of our own
hearts, the
ruling senti-
ments, by
which we are
influenced,
or, the prin-
ciples by
which we
are governed,
is one of the
first requisites
towards the
attainment
of true religion.
Now this
knowledge
can only

be attained
by a
knowledge
which can
only be
obtained
by earnest
self exam-
ination

be acquired
by candid &
earnest
self-exami-
nation
with a sincere
desire to
ascertain
our true
relation
towards
God.
This is
specially

~~to secure for~~ ~~become the~~
~~more~~ necessary, inasmuch as the human
heart is so liable to deceive itself. In fact,
self-deception is one of the most features of
human nature. How apt are men in
general to put on ^{fair} appearances instead
of the reality, and ~~deceive themselves~~ ^{thus}
~~fair appearances~~, by an outward garb
of piety, when there is nothing sincere,
or genuine within them. How apt are
^{numbers to} ~~men to~~ satisfy themselves with the mere
semblance of religion, though void of all
vitality. How often meet the Saviour
of heart complacent men, as if old. These
men crowd near to me with their
mouths & honor me with their lips,
 whilst their hearts are far from me.
Instead of ~~and~~ worshipping God in
Spirit & in Truth, too many content
themselves with the external forms of
devotion. ~~Or, they flatter themselves~~
Or it may be men flatter themselves

some
with ~~the same~~ ^{some} good qualities and
superior merits, just because they are
not as bad as some others, or, because
they now & then ^{perform} some little acts
of charity & piety; ~~though they by no means~~
~~have God as they ought with their~~
~~talent.~~

One special characteristic of selfac-
ception consists in this that people
are too ^{ready} ~~apt~~ to compare themselves
with others, instead of ~~looking~~
~~into their own hearts~~ of examining
themselves by the rules & precepts of
God's word; they put ~~up~~ up a humane
standard, when they ought to try them-
selves by ~~that~~ ^{the} Divine standard, of these
Scripture principles, by which the
Searcher of hearts weighs men's
real character & ~~actions~~, motives & actions.

Self examination ^{is therefore of the utmost importance and} can never do any harm. For if you are sincere in your religious profession & upright with God you need not be afraid to be put to the test; if not sincere, or halfhearted the sooner you know it the better for you. Let us proceed then dear brethren to the sanctification of our souls, and notice how urgently St Paul recommends self examination ~~to even~~ ~~to such who were by no means worthy~~ ~~of faith & goodliness.~~ to his Corinthian readers and then to all who make profession of religion.

Now it must be admitted that collectively
 & ^{as} ~~as~~ ^{believers} speaking the Corinthians were considered
 them as ^{believers} ~~non~~. St Paul in both his Epistles ~~as~~
 as ^{believers} ~~as~~ ^{believers} in Christ & reckoned among ~~believers~~
 & saints. He ~~recognizes~~ recognizes ~~as~~
 and commends many ~~and~~ excellent ~~of~~

qualities
~~and desires~~ which grace has wrought in them
such as their knowledge of the truth, their ~~renewal~~ boldness
of the ~~sum~~, or their ~~confirmation~~ of their ~~Christian's~~ ^{of their cele-}
~~faith~~ st ~~that they waited for the coming of the~~ ^{gracious and}
Lord Jesus Christ. All this was highly ^{meek and}
unmendable & a proof of their ~~unconversion~~ ^{conversion}
~~sentiments~~. Never the less he had to reprove ^{of their faith}
them for various ~~sheer errors~~ ^{and that} and disorders, ^{they were}
which had crept in among them. Above ^{wasting}
all he found occasion to expose the vain
divisions which sprung up among them;
their unwise attachment to men & human
instruments. Some would call themselves
after Paul, some after Apollus & ^{some} others
after Cephas, or Peter; ~~and so that they would~~
~~only recognize Christ as their pattern~~
Above all the Apostles had to tell ^{Moreover}
them that they laid too great stress ^{the}
on extraordinary & shining gifts ~~and~~ on human
~~human~~ eloquence, which overtook ^{was}
the most excellent gift, or grace, ~~such as~~ ^{such as}
or, brotherly love. Besides ^{charity}
many of the Corinthians had become
prejudiced against Paul to ~~them~~ ^{himself of whom,}

under you; blessing they owe their
conversion; for he has laid the founda-
tion of the true faith among them.

~~Some false teachers~~

Some juggling teachers & other ~~persons~~ ^{false}
Apostles have led some of the Corin-
thians away from the simplicity of the
Gospel. In fact, throughout both his
Epistles we observe that St Paul
had to use various arguments ~~and~~
~~warnings~~ to remove certain prejudices
& unbearably ^{opinions} ~~institutions~~ ^{concerning}
himself, ~~and to forgetting the many~~
~~fold sufferings which he had en-~~
~~dured~~ for the Gospel, & the
success with which the Lord had ^{blessed} ~~favoured~~
his labors especially among Gentiles.

Assuredly it became St Paul to defend
himself to put some searching questions
to the Corinthian Church collectively that
each & all might ponder over his ad-
monitions and examine themselves.

Hence the strong appeal in our text.

He had
to remind
them of
the mani-
fold
sufferings
he was
hearing
& the
manifest
sufferings
he had
to endure

Examine yourselves whether ye be in the
fellowship; prove your own selves. There
is something very touching & as it were
home thrust in that Murk's language.