

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 to our faith, to know our ruling
sentiments, the ^{on the} principles
by which we are ^{guided} ~~influenced~~ is the first requisite
towards the attainment of true religion.
Now this knowledge can only
be attained by a candid impartial
searching inquiry into our real
character, our religious principles, and
our spiritual attainments, by means of
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 guided,
is one of the
first requisites
towards the
attainment
of true religion.
Now this
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principles, and
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by means of
our religious
principles, our
spiritual relation

be acquired
by candid &
earnest
self exam-
ination
with a sincere
desire to
ascertain
our true
relation
towards
God.

This is
specially

~~to be acquired~~ ~~becomes the~~
~~more~~ necessary, inasmuch as the human
heart is so liable to deceive itself. In fact,
self deception is one of the worst features of
human nature. How apt are men in
general to put on ^{fair} appearances instead
of the reality, and ^{thus} deceive themselves &
~~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 Sinner
of heart complacent now, as of 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 outward forms of
worship. ~~Or, they flatter themselves~~
Or it may be men flatter themselves

some
with ~~the same 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~~
~~substance.~~

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 putting up a humane
standard, when they ought to try them-
selves by ^{the} ~~that~~ 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 professions & 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 execution of our task, and notice how urgently St Paul recommends self examination ~~to~~ ~~even~~ ~~to such who were by no means void of faith & godliness~~ to his Corinthian readers and then to all who make profession of religion.

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

qualities
~~and~~ which grace has wrought in them
such as their knowledge of the truth, their ~~faith~~ ^{boldness} of their ~~faith~~ ^{faith}
~~of the same, or their confession of the Christian~~ ^{of their}
~~faith, or that they waited for the~~ ^{of their}
Lord Jesus Christ. All this was highly
commendable & a proof of their ~~conversion~~ ^{conversion}
~~sentiments~~. Nevertheless he had to reprove
them for various ~~errors~~ ^{errors} and disorders,
which had crept in among them. Above
all he found occasion to expose the various
divisions which sprung up among them,
their undue attachment to men & human
instruments. Some would call themselves
after Paul, some after Apollos & ~~others~~ ^{some}
after Cephas, or Peter; ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~others~~ ^{others} would
~~only recognize Christ as their father~~
~~Above all the Apostles had to tell~~ ^{Moreover}
them that they laid too great stress
on extraordinary & shining gifts ~~and~~ ^{on} ~~human~~ ^{human}
eloquence, which is overlooking ^{rather}
the most excellent gift, or grace, ~~which~~ ^{such as}
or, brotherly love. Besides ~~they~~ ^{charity}
many of the Corinthians had become
prejudiced against Paul ~~to whom~~ ^{himself of whom,}

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

~~Some false teachers~~

Some juggling teachers & other ~~persons~~ ^{false}
Apostles had led some of the Corinthi-
ans 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
& unbearable ^{opinions} ~~instructions~~ ^{concerning}
himself, ~~and to forgetting the mani-~~
~~fold sufferings which he had en-~~
~~dured~~ for the Gospel, & the ^{success} ~~success~~
with which the Lord had ^{blessed} ~~blessed~~
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
incurring
for their
benefit
& 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 the Apostle's language.