
❖SERMON NOTES ❖

Sunday, August 26, 2012

“THE NEED FOR SELF-EXAMINATION”

(Lamentations 3:22-40)

A new school year and a new church year are about to begin. This season is a good time to reevaluate and restructure our lives for the Lord Jesus and His perfect plans for us. The little book of Lamentations gives us a blueprint for spiritual self-examination.

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD” (Lamentations 3:40, NIV).

1. We are to _____.

We are to do this _____

We are to do this _____

We are to do this _____

“Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:24, NIV).

2. We are to _____.

3. We are to _____.

He _____

He _____

He _____

“Let's take a good look at the way we're living and reorder our lives under God” (Lamentations 3:40, The Message).

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(Lamentations 3:22-40)

“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).

“Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it – but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24, NIV).

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD” (Lamentations 3:40, NIV).

1. We are to review our lives.

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” (2 Corinthians 13:5, NIV).

We are to do this regularly

We are to do this thoroughly

“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like” (James 1:23-24, NIV).

We are to do this honestly

“Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:24, NIV).

2. We are to recognize our failures.

3. We are to retrace our steps.

He forgives

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NIV).

He defends

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1-2, NIV).

He welcomes us home

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away” (John 6:37, NIV).

“Let's take a good look at the way we're living and reorder our lives under God” (Lamentations 3:40, The Message).