

Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

The Need for Self-Examination

by John Baker

We are often too easily deceived regarding our own sins. For some reason, we don't tend to believe we're the ones the Bible is talking about when it says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). It's relatively easy to study the Bible or listen to a class and think, "so-and-so needs to hear this!" But how much harder it is to allow God's word to rebuke and change us in our sins! God tells us to continually, "examine ourselves whether we be in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5). What kinds of attitudes can help us to truly examine ourselves? How can we more easily recognize and let God help us deal with our sins?

Pray risky prayers — The Psalmist sincerely wanted to examine himself, so he prayed to God: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24). Talk about risky prayers! The person who prays like this had better be ready to deal with sin, because God will most certainly help us see what is lacking (cf. 1 John 5:14-15). We need to be able to honestly and frankly talk to God about our sin. We also need to be able to ask God to help us see our sin! When we have offended Him, there is no Biblical way to sugar-coat our behavior (Isa. 59:1-2). Risky prayers like the one the Psalmist prayed help us to look honestly at ourselves, and God answers prayers like that!

Stand next to Jesus — Many times we do not see our sin because we are in the process of pointing sin out to others. "Why do you look at the speck in your neighbor's eye, and do not consider the plank in your own eye?" (Matt. 7:3). When we carry around a harsh, critical, and fault-finding attitude, we will never see ourselves as we truly are. Why? Because when we find fault with another, we automatically begin to compare ourselves to that person. The only comparison that really matters, however, is how we measure up to Jesus (cf. Gal. 2:20). Continued on next page....

Dates to Remember

- ★ Ladies meet the 4th Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food
- Men meet the 4th Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.

Sermons and bulletins available @
Melbournechurchofchrist.com

Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.



Melbourne
Church of Christ
A Place to Belong

Elders

Danny Brightwell
291-3439

Shelby Qualls
346-5255

Deacons

Bryan Phillips 373-0546
David Brightwell 307-5714

Alan Love 243-4608
Joe Cooper 291-4653

Minister

Ryan Lloyd 368-7886
Melbourne CoC
Box 267
Melbourne, AR 72556

Family News

- Ladies Day will be June 3rd Registration is from 9-9:30am and the program ends with a salad luncheon. Kitty Smith is our speaker.
- * Communion is gluten-free and travel communion is available.

OPENING PRAYER Chip Master

CLOSING PRAYER Alan Love



SHELBY QUALLS

Continued... Friends, when we compare ourselves to the sinless Son of God, we will never measure up. When we stand next to Him, we will always be able to clearly see our faults (cf. Matt. 5:3). What a blessing to be able to see His righteousness! What a blessing to see our own brokenness!

Call sin what it is — The Bible is not shy about calling certain attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors, “sinful.” Sometimes we are slow to examine ourselves because we do not call sin by its true name. The Israelites are not the only ones who ever, “called evil good, and good evil” (Isa. 5:20). We might be robbing God in our contribution (cf. Mal. 3:8), and rationalize that the economy’s not so good. We might be worshipping in vain (Mark 7:6-7), and chalk it up to, “too much stress.” We might be engaging in any of several forms of despicable behavior and call it an, “alternative lifestyle” (1 Cor. 6:9-11). No matter what we call it, our sin is still breaking God’s heart. How we need to be honest with ourselves and with Him regarding our sinfulness!

Brethren, without self-examination we will find ourselves becoming increasingly self-righteous, calloused, and stagnant in our spiritual growth. Our relationship with God will be diminished, and our appreciation for the salvation He has provided will wane. Self-examination may be one of the hardest things God asks us to do, but it is absolutely essential to our growth as Christians (2 Pet. 3:18). We will never realize the joy and blessings of Christianity unless we develop and cultivate the habit of continually turning to God (James 4:8-10). May all of us truly examine ourselves.

Prayer List

Military: Derek Love, A.J. Talkington **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Josh Morehead, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

Nursing Home: Debbie Hoskinds, Emma Jean Cooper

Health: Ted Kidd	Richard Gunter	Donnie Vest	Joanna Smith
Joe Guiltner	Dan Clark	Wilma Cooper	Wayne Crosby
Tracy Thomas	Brooke Pritchard	Troy Gaston	James Nicholson
Bill Roland	Hayden Phillips	Donny Smith	Joanne Weston
Bill Wiseman	Debbie Nicholson	Helen King	Phil Haagenon
Mary Kosmitis	Dorothy Teague	Jim Fowler	Shirley Lewis
Diane Owens	Ivy Jo Slade	Jeff Young	Lynn Hicks
Justin Teague	Charlotte Cooper	Cecilia Broughton	Sue Campbell
Arlene Davidson	Chip & Regina Master		Deborah Halcom
Ted & Sanyia Austin	J.B. & Wanda Dill		Nevin Hart
Justin Cooper	Dwain Welch		

March Birthdays

Tyler Webb 1 st	Joyce Clark 2 nd	Justin Teague 9 th
Dorothy Teague 9 th	Jay Chaney 13 th	Tommy Taylor 21 st
Joe Guiltner 22 nd	Mandy Haney Ward 28 th	Bill Roland 28 th

March Anniversaries

David & Rita Hoskinds 3rd
Jeff & Sarena Young 5th

Psalm 119:57-64, “The Lord is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words. I sought Your favor with all my heart; Be gracious to me according to Your word. I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies. I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments. The cords of the wicked have encircled me, but I have not forgotten Your law. At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You because of Your righteous ordinances. I am a companion of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.”