

Below the Surface- Standing in faith, restored relationally.

Sermon Notes

May 13, 2018

The final examination. **2 Corinthians 13:5-6**

Philippians 2:12 *"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling."*

***Illustration:** The examination before the search committee—direct, indirect (references), testing. My part- discomfort, nervous, bribery (cookies), respond with integrity and transparency.

- Examine or test yourselves in regard to the validity of your faith. (5)
 - Do you love and obey Jesus?
 - Evidence of the convicting work of the Spirit?
 - Evidence of the fruit of the Spirit?
 - Is there transformation taking place?
- Ask a trusted friend to answer these questions about you.
- Why is this helpful?
 - Examinations continue to drive the knowledge and commitment deeper in you.
 - It can shock you out of coasting and to get on a healthier path.
- Paul presumed they would pass the test but encouraged the examination anyway. (6)

Pursuing a “new normal” post examination. **2 Corinthians 13:7-10**

- Making the right decisions and living according to what is right. (7)
- Standing with truth and not against. (8)
 - It begins with knowing the truth of God’s righteous and holy temple revealed in Christ.
 - Christ gives you a lens by which you can test the truth of who you are, hence the examination.
- Begin seeking full relational restoration once you have examined yourself. (9)
- Peacemaking based on truth and right spirit can now happen so that there may be a joyful reunion upon Paul’s return. (10)

Take aways:

- New beginnings can best happen when we allow ourselves to be examined.
- Knowing the truth of where your spiritual condition as a follower of Jesus opens the door for humble interaction with others.
- Restoration with God and others can now truly begin.