

CHECK UP FROM THE HEART UP

ANOTHER YEAR HAS COME AND GONE. TO LOOK BACK AND SEE WHAT WE DID WRONG AND WHAT WE DID RIGHT IS GOOD. MAKING ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR LIFE TO BETTER OURSELVES IS IMPORTANT. BUT, BEFORE LOSING THE UNWANTED HOLIDAY WEIGHT AND MAKING MORE MONEY THIS YEAR THAN LAST, WE SHOULD DO AN INVENTORY OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE. HOW IS YOUR WALK WITH JESUS GOING? HONESTLY. TODAY, THE FIRST SERMON OF 2025, I THOUGHT WE COULD CHECK OURSELVES WITH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. AFTER ALL, JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD WHO WAS MADE FLESH, LED A PERFECT LIFE IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, ONLY TO LAY IT DOWN ON THE CROSS ON OUR BEHALF. SO THAT, ALL WHO OBEY HIM AND TRULY LOVE HIM CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. WHY? BECAUSE HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD. GOD THE FATHER ACCEPTED THE SACRIFICIAL DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL SIN AND MADE HIM THE FIRST BORN INTO THE NEW LIFE. JESUS ASCENDED BACK TO GLORY, AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, UNTIL HE COMES BACK AGAIN TO JUDGE THE EARTH AND EVERY HUMAN BEING THAT HAS EVER EXISTED. PRETTY GREAT HUH? YES IT IS. HOWEVER, JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES SAID SOME PRETTY HEAVY STUFF DIRECTED TO HIS CHURCH. WARNINGS AND SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS PEOPLE TO MEDITATE ON AND OBEY. THIS IS NOT ABOUT PERFECTION. IT IS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF OUR AFFECTION. I PRAY TODAY CONVICTS YOU AS MUCH AS IT HAS CONVICTED ME TO PREPARE. WORKING OUT OUR SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING, INSTEAD OF CHEAP GRACE LIVING. THE

GRACE OF GOD IS MEANT TO BRING US TO REPENTANCE, NOT A FREE RIDE TO SIN AND LICENSE TO GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Deuteronomy 6:5 ESV

⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

LOVE/AHAB/TO BE A LOVER/ROMANTIC LOVE/COVENANT
LOYALTY...LOVE/AGAPAO/ACTIVE LOVE
HEART/LEBAB/INNER PERSON/SEAT OF THOUGHT AND
EMOTION

SOUL/NEPES/BREATH/LIFE/SEAT OF EMOTION AND
DESIRE/IMMATERIAL PART OF A PERSON
STRENGTH/MEOD/A MARKER OF GREAT DEGREE OR
QUANTITY/EXCEEDINGLY/MUCH

GOD IS FIRST, THEN OTHERS, BEFORE YOUR FAMILY AND
FRIENDS, BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE

John 14:5-6 ESV

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

THERE IS NO WAY ANY OF US CAN TRULY LOVE GOD EXCEPT
THROUGH THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST AND BY THE
POWER OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT THAT HE SENT TO GUIDE, TEACH,
AND CONVICT...THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO FATHER GOD

Luke 9:23-25 ESV

²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

MAN/ANTHROPOS.....HIMSELF/HEAUTOU..BOTH SEXES

DENY YOURSELF, YOUR DEAD, CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST
YOU WILL NOT CARE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU MADE OR HOW
MANY THINGS YOU ACQUIRED WHEN YOU'RE ON YOUR DEATH
BED. ETERNITY IS MUCH LONGER AND MUCH BETTER FOR
THOSE WHO DO THIS, NOT SO MUCH FOR THOSE WHO STILL
LIVE SELFISHLY

NOT PERFECTION, BUT THE DIRECTION OF YOUR AFFECTION

DO YOU PRAY? HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND ALONE WITH
GOD? DO YOU READ HIS WORD AND MEDITATE ON IT? DO
YOU TALK TO HIM DAILY? BUSINESS OF LIFE IS NOT A GOOD
EXCUSE, ACCORDING TO JESUS

PAUL THE APOSTLE GIVES US GREAT DIRECTION THROUGH HIS
LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF COLOSSAI

Colossians 3:1-3 ESV

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

ENJOY LIFE, BUT STAY HEAVENLY MINDED
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW CHRIST?

Colossians 3:5-10 ESV

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming. **7** In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

MALICE/KAKIA/WICKEDNESS, EVIL, DEPRAVITY
KNOWLEDGE/EPIGNOSIS/UNDERSTANDING/CONCIOUS
OF/INSIGHT

WE WILL NEVER TRULY KNOW GOD IF WE DON'T KNOW THE
SCRIPTURES. HE IS MORE THAN A WORSHIP SONG OR A MEME
YOU CUT AND PASTE ON SOCIAL MEDIA. HE IS MORE THAN
OUR PRECONCIEVED IDEAS ABOUT HIM

Colossians 3:12-17 ESV

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

LOVE/AGAPE/THE LOVE OF GOD FOR HIS SON AND PEOPLE

WHAT AMAZING DIRECTION!

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were

taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

FUTILITY/MATAIOTES/EMPTINESS,FRUSTRATION
PUT OFF/APOTITHEMI/GET RID OF,PUT ASIDE
PUT ON/ENDYO/TO CLOTHE,DRESS

IT'S NOT YOUR TRUTH OR MY TRUTH...THERE IS ONLY THE TRUTH...AND THE TRUTH IS IN JESUS, WHO IS THE WORD MADE FLESH

2 Peter 1:3-11 ESV

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so

nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

PERSEVERANCE/HYPOMONE/PATIENT ENDURANCE
BROTHER/ADELPHOS/MEN AND WOMAN OF FAITH
PRACTICE/POIEO/TO DO, TO MAKE
NEVER/OU/ABSOLUTELY NOT, IN NO WAY, HARD NO

ARE WE INCREASING IN THESE QUALITIES? OR OUR WE JUST
PLAYING CHURCH?

WE CAN ONLY POSSESS AND INCREASE IN THE QUALITIES BY THE
REVELATION OF THE DIVINE POWER GIVEN TO US

JESUS WARNS HIS CHURCH AND DOESN'T SUGAR COAT
ANYTHING

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your

name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

DEPART FROM ME, YOU PLAYED CHURCH, YOU NEVER LOVED ME

THIS IS SERIOUS, SPEND TIME WITH GOD IN PRAYER, READ HIS WORD, LEARN CHRIST, THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND AND WILL CONVICT YOU OF YOUR SIN

HE WILL ALSO BE FAITHFUL TO GET YOU HOME, BACK TO THE FATHER, ETERNALLY

LET'S SPEND THIS YEAR INCREASING IN THE THINGS OF GOD

1. STUDY THE WORD TO UNDERSTAND
2. PRAY DAILY AND OFTEN/AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE TIMES WITH NO DISTRACTIONS
3. FIGHT AGAINST YOUR OLD NATURE/STOP MAKING EXUSES
4. EMBRASE YOUR NEW NATURE IN CHRIST
5. ACKNOWLEDGE AND CARE FOR OTHERS, EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T AGREE
6. ENJOY LIFE! WORK HARD AND PLAY, BUT DO IT WITH CHRIST
7. DON'T EVER GIVE UP, KEEP GOING, ONE DAY AT A TIME

END

COMMUNION

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

English Standard Version

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ^[a] ³¹ But if we judged ^[b] ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined ^[c] so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

