

**- Digging Deeper –
“Are You Authentic?”**

For personal or small group study

Week of June 7, 2009

Matthew 25:30 NASB “cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- The lack of deeds (good evidence) proved to everyone, including the servant, there was no **core faith** in the man’s heart.

2 Timothy 4:7 NLT “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the **prize awaits me**—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the **righteous Judge, will give me** on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.”

- The only ones who have anything to fear will be those in whom there is no fire ...

3. HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE HAVE **FIRE** IN OUR SPIRIT?

2 Corinthians 13:5 TLB “... Do you feel Christ’s presence and power more and more within you?” **HCSB** “... do you yourselves not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you?”

Job 23:12 NLT “I have not departed from his commands, but have **treasured his words more than daily food**.”

- Job was talking about the fire deep within him for God and His Word. It was that fire that motivated him to do the deeds that would be the evidence God was looking for.

James 2:20 TLB “Faith that does not result in good deeds is not real faith.”

- When you have God’s Spirit burning bright within you, that passion for God will motivate you to be moving forward to becoming fully spiritually mature.

- **Please get this:** Salvation is *owned* by your **faith**, but it is *shown* or revealed by your **deeds**. Your good deeds will never save you, but they will determine your authenticity and the measure of your rewards.

2 Corinthians 13:5 TLB “Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ’s presence and power more and more within you? Or are you just pretending to be Christians when actually you aren’t at all?”

NOW WHAT?

If there is not a burning passion for God within you motivating you to move forward towards spiritual maturity, that needs to be a “fire alarm” to you, warning you to take immediate action to get your passion for God re-ignited. Humble yourself; acknowledge your condition, then soberly and earnestly ask God to change your heart. Then let that passion for God’s truth begin to change your behavior.

Did you have an “AHA” moment from the sermon or sermon notes? If so, what was it and how has it impacted you?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the word “*authentic*”? Describe someone who you consider to be authentic. What do you see as being the difference between an authentic Christian and an artificial Christian?

2. What is Paul telling us to do in the following scripture?

2 Corinthians 13:5 TLB “*Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ’s presence and power more and more within you? Or are you just pretending to be Christians when actually you aren’t at all?*”

How will this help us to stay authentic as a Christian?

3. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, what are the keys to salvation? What is the difference between faith and deeds when we consider our salvation? Which do you see as the most important and why? [James 2:17-26; Matthew 16:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10]

4. Break into groups of two or three and discuss this question. How are deeds more like the heat from a barbecue grill than the actual fire? How do you know if you have true core faith in your heart? What is the potential result if you don’t have true core faith? [Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27; Romans 4:2-8]

5. Where are you in your spiritual journey towards being Christ-centered? How does having a lack of fire in the grill cause you to stall? What are the dangers of living your spiritual life in delusion and not bearing authentic spiritual fruit? [Matthew 7:20-23; John 15:2, 8]

What must you do to stay authentic and keep the fire burning? [2 Corinthians 13:5; Romans 12:1-3; James 4:6-10]

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

June 7, 2009

ARE YOU AUTHENTIC?

2 Corinthians 13:5

God places a high value on authenticity.

Matthew 7:23 NLT "I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws."

- Where are you on your spiritual journey with Christ?

2 Corinthians 13:5 (TLB) "Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? **Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you?** Or are you just pretending to be Christians when actually you aren't at all?"

- Ask yourself the hard question, "*Does my faith pass the test?* Is there evidence it is living and growing, or has it developed spiritual leukemia or even fossilized?"

1. CHRIST WILL TEST YOUR AUTHENTICITY

- The Bible tells us we need to think "soberly" - literally to be in control of one's thought processes, and thus not be in danger of irrational thinking.

2 Corinthians 5:10 NLT "For we must **all** stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the **good** or **evil we have done** in this earthly body."

- **All** Christians will stand to be judged by Christ; the same One who loved us so much He died for us.

- Just because we don't experience God's judgment now is no reason to believe He has overlooked our willful choices to break His laws.

- This judgment will happen after we die and before we enter Heaven.

Hebrews 9:27 NLT "...each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment."

2. THE EVIDENCE OFFERED YOUR JUDGE WILL BE YOUR DEEDS IN THIS LIFE

Matthew 16:27 NLT "the Son of Man will come ... and will **judge** all people according to their deeds."

- Your deeds (works) will never buy your **entrance** into God's Heaven. They are only the evidence there is the fire of faith within you.