

## **GOD EXAMINES OUR HEART**

In our [last study](#) we explained why we divided chapter **TWO** into four sections based on the word, **Brethren**:

- **1 Thess.2:1-8**
  - (vs.1), “For you yourselves know, **brethren**, that our coming to you was not in vain,”
- **1 Thess.2:9-13**
  - (vs.9), “For you recall, **brethren**, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.”
- **1 Thess.2:14-16**
  - (vs.14) “For you, **brethren**, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,
- **1 Thess.2:17-20**
  - (vs.17) “But we, **brethren**, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit - were all the more eager with great desire to see your face”.

**We will study four aspects of how and why the essence of God, examines the human heart God Examines Our Heart.**

1. **Paul explains in our lesson text that the God, who examines our heart, is also our witness.**  
(read 1 Thess.2:4-5)

**The Greek word for examine in our text is dokimazo.**

- **Dokimazo** means to be examined for approval for some specific service after testing for qualification.

An example would be a graduate law student passing the state bar examination; and is now qualified to practice law in that state.

(1 Thess.2:4-5) “But **just as we have been approved by God** to be entrusted with the gospel, **so** we speak, not as pleasing men, **but God who examines our hearts**. For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed - **God is our witness.**”

Approval by God for what service we performed for others. \_\_\_\_\_

Who examines our hearts in this service? \_\_\_\_\_

- What is the gospel? (1 Cor.15:1-4) Note the 5 – “Which.”
- How are people saved? (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)
- Eternal life security is in the Essence and hands of God (John 10:28-30; 1 John 5:11-13).
- Assurance of eternal life security is in hands of person believing gospel (John 20:31; 1 John 5:13).

2. **It is a big deal for a believer to be entrusted (pisteuo/ a.p.infin) [to believe, to entrust] with the Grace Gospel for others eternal salvation).**

(1 Thess.2:4) “**We have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.**”

Then infinitive is used to express the aim of the action of the main verb. To be entrusted with the Grace Gospel is God's aim - after we have been approved by God! (dokimazo/ perf.p.ind.1pl/ main verb)

### 3. The Essence of God is important in both being approved and entrusted with Grace Gospel in the Plan of God.

It is important to remember the role the Essence of God plays in fulfillment of His Directive Will in your Christian Way of Life in God's Plan.

(Eph.6:6) “**Not** by way of eyeservice, as men pleasers, **but as** slaves of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart.**”

#### The Essence of God:

<b>Omniscience</b>	(1 John 3:20)	<b>Sovereign</b>	(Dan.4:25)
Omnipotent	(Rom.4:17)	Righteous	(Acts 3:16)
Omnipresence	(Jer.23:24)	<b>Love</b>	(1 John 4:6)
<b>Veracity</b>	(Heb.6:18)	Eternal life	(1 John 5:11-13)
Immutable	(Heb.13:8)	Holy	(John 17:11)

#### The prophet Samuel was sent by God to the house of Jesse to select the next king of Israel.

(1 Sam.16:7) “The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at the appearance or the height or the stature, because I have rejected him; for man looks at the outward appearance, **but the Lord looks at the heart.**’”

#### Samuel said to Saul:

(1 Sam.13:14) “The Lord has sought out for Himself a man **after His own heart**, and the Lord has appointed him s ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”  
(1 Sam.15:23, 28; 16:1, 7) (Acts 13:22-23)

### 4. The heart is 1 of 5 apparatuses of man's soul.

- Self-Consciousness                      Awareness of self and God
- Conscience                                Norms and standards of good and evil, right, and wrong.
- **Mentality**                                The process of thinking by the mind and heart.
- Volition                                    Free Will - choices.
- Emotion                                    The responder and facilitator of feelings (high and low).

#### Mind (nous/ perception) - Mentality - Heart (kardia/ comprehension)

- A. God is greater than our heart (1 John 3:20).
- B. Satan can influence the mind and heart (2 Cor.4:3-4; Acts 5:4; Matt.13:9, 19).
- C. Evil in the heart of believer results in unbelieving reversionistic heart (Heb.3:12-19; 5:11-14).
- D. Evil thinking in the heart can dramatically change one's countenance and behavior (Gen.4:5-7; 1 John 3:12; Jer.17:9)
- E. One's innermost thoughts are in his/ her heart (1 Pet.3:4). “The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy.” (Prov.14:10)
- F. Cycling the word of God by faith in heart is “able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Heb.4:12 Eph.3:16-17; Rom.10:17; Ps.119:11)
- G. Faith in grace gospel cleanses the heart from all Adam's original sin. (Rom.5:12-21; Acts 2:37-41; 15:6-11; 16:9-40) (Gal.4:7; Rom.5:5; Rom.8:26-27)