



Individual Examination & Accountability

Galatians 6:3-5



For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.



You know you have a
difficult text when you
turn to your favorite
study Bible and you get
nothing

6:1 you who are spiritual. This does not refer to an elite class of Christians but rather to those who have more maturity and experience in the Christian life and who are therefore in a position to help their beleaguered brother or sister. The adjective “spiritual” means “living and walking according to the Holy Spirit” (see note on 5:16; also 1 Cor. 2:15; 3:1; 14:37) and includes, but is not limited to, the qualities listed in Gal. 5:22–23.

6:2 To bear one another's burdens is the supreme imitation of Jesus, the ultimate burden-bearer (see Rom. 15:1–3). He has even gone to the length of taking mankind's sins (Gal. 1:4) and the curse of the law (3:13) upon himself. **and so fulfill the law of Christ.** Though Paul insists that the Galatians are free from obeying Jewish ceremonial laws (see note on 2:11–12), this does not mean they are free from all of God's moral requirements. The “law of Christ” in a broad sense means the entire body of ethical teaching that Jesus gave and endorsed (see note on 1 Cor. 9:21), but in a specific sense here it probably refers to the command to love one's neighbor as oneself (Matt. 22:39; John 13:34), which, if followed fully, will result in obeying the rest of God's moral law (Rom. 13:8–10). ↴

6:6 Paul instructs the church to support its teachers materially—with food, money, and whatever good things are appropriate.

6:7–8 whatever one sows, that will he also reap. In this context, Paul's reference to “reaping” is a reference to the blessings of eternal life (rather than to temporal blessings) that the believer will “reap” as the result of “sowing” his life to the Spirit. As Paul argues elsewhere (2 Cor. 4:17), the believer's expectation and experience in this life will be persecution and affliction, but “this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.” (Cf. Jesus' words in John 15:18–21; 16:33.)

6:10 While believers await their rewards (vv. 7–9) they should do good. The primary focus should be on serving those in the church, but never to the exclusion of people in the wider world. As Jesus made clear (e.g., Matt. 6:33), the Christian's primary allegiance is to the kingdom of God, with God as our heavenly Father (Matt. 6:9, 32; 12:50; cf. Matt. 8:21–22), rather than to friends, the workplace, school, sports, or to anything else, even earthly families.

6:11–18 Final Warning. Paul summarizes the main themes of the letter and challenges the reader to stay true to the gospel. To require circumcision is to deny the cross and the dawning of the new creation. Those who belong to the new creation comprise the true Israel.



All the sermons I listened to
on this verse—preached
against pride from the text.



Galatians 6:3

• **For** if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

**What is the
context for this?**



Galatians 6:1-2

- Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.
- Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.
- Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.



I think Paul is still concerned about the legitimacy of the Galatian's conversion.

Previously he wrote,

- **I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain. (4:11)**
- **I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. (4:20)**



What does “he is something” refer to?

- 1. Spiritual**
- 2. Saved**
- 3. Righteous**
- 4. Immune to the need for help**
- 5. Being arrogant**



Why does Paul use such
an indiscriminate
pronoun?

‘Something’



Is Paul's point that we are all 'nothing'?

**If that is the case, what is the
point of v. 4.**



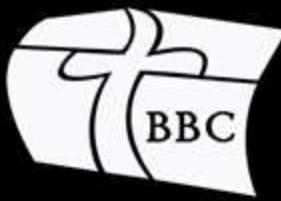
Galatians 6:4

- But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.



Let me show you a
paraphrase of v. 4

Complete Jewish Bible



For if anyone thinks he is something when he is really nothing, he is fooling himself. ⁴ So let each of you scrutinize his own actions. **Then if you do find something to boast about, at least the boasting will be based on what you have actually done and not merely on a judgment that you are better than someone else;**



Galatians 6:4 (HCSB)

- But each person should examine his own work, and then he will have a reason for boasting in himself alone,

δοκιμάζω

KJV Translation Count — Total: 23x

The KJV translates Strong's G1381 in the following manner: prove (10x), try (4x), approve (3x), discern (2x), allow (2x), like (1x), examine (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. to test, examine, prove, scrutinise (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals
- II. to recognise as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy



**Prove
Examine
Test
Scrutinize**



Paul uses this same
word in describing the
final judgment

1 Corinthians 3

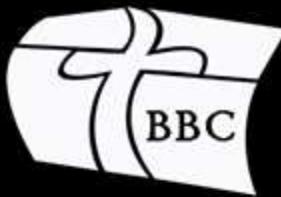


11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.



At every Lord's Supper
all believers are called
upon to EXAMINE
themselves



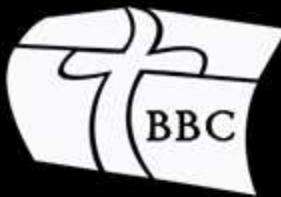
1 Corinthians 11:28

[Before the Lord's Supper]

• **Let a person examine himself,**
then, and so eat of the bread and drink
of the cup.



**Paul admonishes
Christians everywhere to
examine the legitimacy of
their personal conversion**



2 Corinthians 13:5

•Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!



Galatians 6:4 (HCSB)

- But each person should examine his own work, and then he will have a reason for boasting in himself alone,
and not in respect to someone else.



My temptation is to measure myself against my neighbor.

But Paul has already given the Galatians the objective standard by which they can test (prove, examine or even scrutinize) their work.

First, he gave them example of the work of the flesh—then he gave them the fruit that the work of the Spirit produces.

Galatians

Works of the Flesh	Works [fruit] of the Spirit
Hatred/ Bitterness	Love
Wrath/ Anger	Joy
Sexual immorality	Self-control
Contentions/Quarreling	Peaceful
Uncleanness/ lewdness	Faithfulness
Idolatry/ Sorcery	Righteousness
Jealousy	Humility
Selfishness/ Greed	Giving / Generous
Covetousness	Thankfulness
Drunkenness	Patience
Lying	Truth
Filthy Language	Kindness/ Goodness
Blasphemy	Gentleness
Stealing	Forgiveness



If I compare myself to others to test myself I may be deceived.

I may think I am 'something' when in fact I am nothing.

I must test my own life—my own work—my own heart against the Word of God.



Turn to 2 Peter 1



2 Peter 1:10

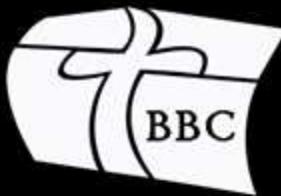
- Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm [validate] your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities [things] you will never fall.

Previously
v. 5-7



Look Back @

v. 5-7



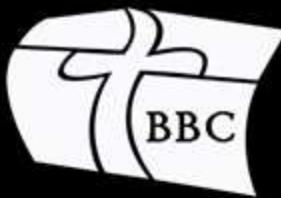
2 Peter 1:5–7 (NET)

- For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge;⁶ to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness;⁷ to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love.



Essential Virtues All Christians Must Possess

- Faith [in God, the Savior, the gospel, His Word, etc.]
- Virtue [moral excellence]
- Knowledge [of God, His will and Word]
- Self-control [more than mere willpower]
- Steadfastness [perseverance, endurance]
- Godliness [opposite of being characterized as sinful]
- Brotherly affection [special love for the body of Christ]
- Love [for God, my neighbor, and even my enemies]



2 Peter 1:8

•For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately.



**Paul and Peter are saying
that we don't measure ourselves against
others.**

**We don't say, 'if she is saved (and acts
like...) I must be saved.'**



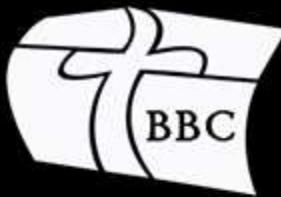
**No other single book in the NT presents
more objective standards by which we can
measure the genuineness of our
salvation/spirituality than _____.**



**No other single book in the NT presents
more objective standards by which we can
measure the genuineness of our
salvation/spirituality than **1 John**.**

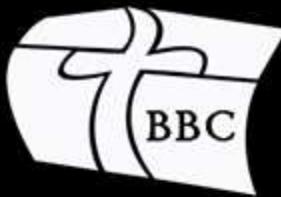


Turn to 1 John



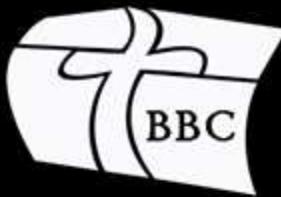
1 John 1:6–8

•**If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**



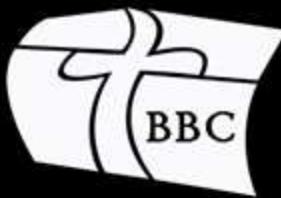
1 John 2:3–4

•And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,



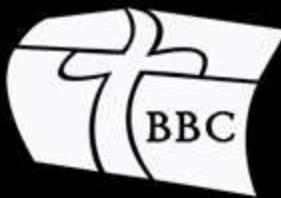
1 John 2:5–6

•but **whoever keeps his word**, in him truly the love of God is perfected. **By this we may know that we are in him:**⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.



1 John 2:9–10

•Whoever **says he is in the light and hates his brother** is still in darkness.¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.



1 John 2:15

- Do not love the world or the things in the world.
- **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**



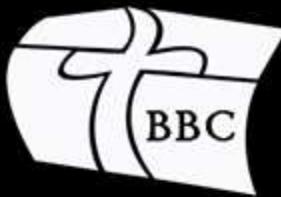
1 John 2:17

•And the world is passing away along with its desires, **but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**



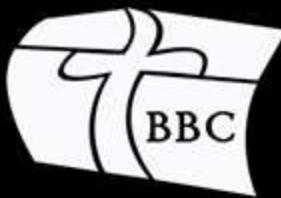
1 John 2:29

- If you know that he is righteous, **you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.**



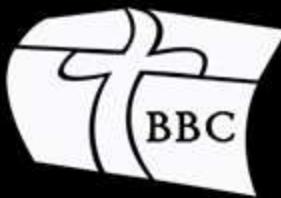
1 John 3:7-8

•Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.



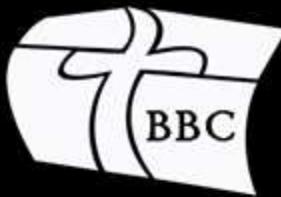
1 John 3:9

•No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.



1 John 3:10

•**By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.**



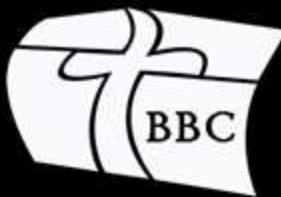
1 John 3:14

- We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.
- Whoever does not love abides in death.



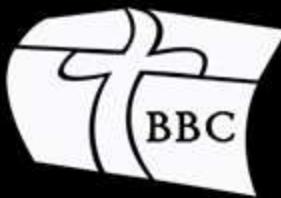
1 John 3:15

- Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and **you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.**



1 John 3:24

- Whoever **keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him.**
- And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.



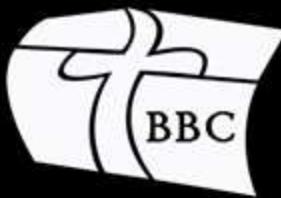
1 John 4:7–8

•Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and **whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.** ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.



1 John 4:20

•If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.



1 John 5:18

- We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.



- **Do I love God?**
- **Do I love the body of Christ?**
- **Do I love my neighbor?**
- **Do I experience victory over sin?**
- **Do I consistently practice particular sins?**
- **Do I forgive others when they sin against me?**



Look Back @ Galatians 6:4



Galatians 6:4 (NET)

- Let each one examine his own work. Then he can take **pride** in himself and not compare himself with someone else.

Greek

“he will have a reason for boasting.”



**Boasting
Rejoicing
Pride
Glorying**



Certainly! Paul cannot be telling the Galatians that if their individual assessment of personal spirituality is legitimate that they can become arrogant people.

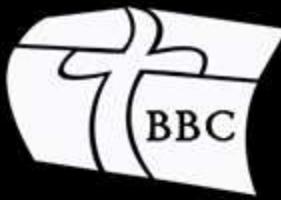
Look back @
Galatians 5:26



Galatians 5:26

- Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

1 Corinthians 13:4



1 Corinthians 13:4

- Love is patient and kind; **love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant**



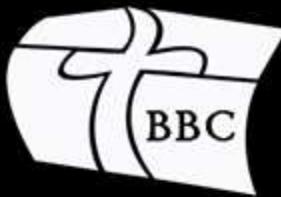
Certainly! Paul cannot be telling the Galatians that if their individual assessment of personal spirituality is legitimate that they can become arrogant people.

Instead, this idea of boasting must be REJOICING or GLORYING in the genuineness of God's work of grace in my life.



1 & 2 Corinthians

**will prove to be very
helpful at this point**



1 Corinthians 1:31

•so that, as it is written, “**Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.**”

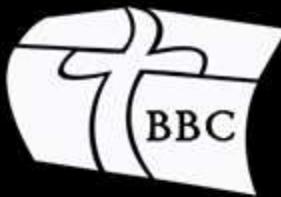
Same Gr.
Word

Where is Paul quoting from?



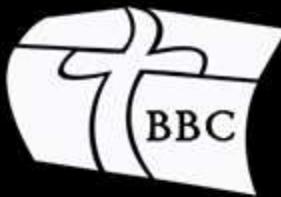
Turn back to

Jeremiah 9:23-24



Jeremiah 9:23–24

•Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, **but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me**, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”



2 Corinthians 10:17

- “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Again Paul quotes from
Jeremiah 9:23-24



- The reason each must prove themselves to be true followers of Christ
- The reason each must examine themselves
- The reason each must test the genuineness of their conversion
- The reason each must scrutinize the legitimacy of their faith

Is presented in verse 5.



Galatians 6:5

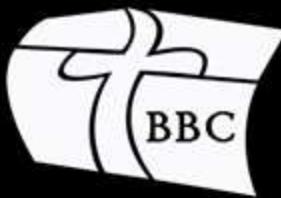
conjunction

- For each will have to bear his own load.



Galatians 6:5

- For each **will** have to bear his own load.



Romans 14:12

•So then **each of us** will give an account of himself to God.