

This is our first chapel in the year 1973. It is, of course, you might say purely accidental that we make it a dividing point at one particular time, but it is good to remind us of the passage of time ~~and to~~ and to have each year be a definite unit.

When I was a boy it was quite customary on New Year's Day to make resolutions. I haven't heard much of it in recent years. I think that it was something that really did not accomplish much and perhaps just as well forgotten. I know that there were at least 3 or 4 different New Years in which I made a resolution to keep up a diary all year, and for 5 or 6 days I kept up the diary, and then it was completely forgotten. And I fear that is what has happened to most of our New Year's resolutions. And I think that there is something better to do at the beginning of the year than to make resolutions. That is to follow Paul's exhortation which he gave us in 2 Cor. 13:5.- "Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith." More important than resolving, is, I think, examining ourselves.

"Examine yourself" -- look at what you've done during the past year. Look at what you are doing now. Get the ^{habit} habit of examining yourself. It would be good to do it every year; good to do it every month; good to do it at the beginning of each week. "Examine yourself."

Someone has said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone would give us the power to see ourselves as others see us." I heard something a few years ago that rather shocked me. I didn't believe it was true. Somebody said, You will find that people, what they are constantly criticizing other people is usually the thing they do themselves." Well, I thought, What nonsense. And then I began to notice that during the next month practically everytime I felt irritated at my wife, it was because of some attitude, some quality or some action which was just what I'm guilty of a great deal. And I think that perhaps if we watch what we criticize others for, and then look at ourselves and see if we're doing the same thing, perhaps it is a help toward examining ourselves. But Paul did not just say, Examine yourselves, look at your actions, look at your mind, look at your situation. He said, Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith. Now this word faith is a word which I think is rather confusing to the average reader because you will find that there are cases where the Greek pistis is translated "faith" and cases where it is translated "faithfulness." And those two words sounded very much alike but naturally to us they ^{actually}