

Evaluation of a Church

Hebrews 10:22-24

Sermon Outline

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I. Criteria of Evaluation

- A. Subjective- Humanly devised and external.
- B. Scriptural- Divinely devised qualities of faith, hope, love and good works.

II. What is “assurance of faith?”

- A. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6
- B. Faith comes through the Word of God. Romans 10:17
- C. The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:17
- D. Faith without good works is dead. James 2:26

III. What is our “confession of hope?”

- A. God is our hope. Psalm 39:7
- B. Christ is our blessed hope. Titus 2:13

IV. How is our love measured?

- A. By our love for God. John 14:15
- B. By our love for one another. John 15:12
- C. By our obedience to His commands. John 14:21

V. How are our good works measured?

- A. We are created in Christ to do good works. Ephesians 2:10
- B. Good works glorify the Father. Matthew 5:16
- C. Good works are shown by sharing. 1 Timothy 6:18, 1 John 3:17-18

VI. Examples of churches.

- A. With the scriptural qualities- Church at Colosse
- B. Without the scriptural qualities- Church at Corinth

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Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. What are some criteria that may be used to evaluate a church as “successful?” Using these as your measure for success, how would Grace Church measure up?
2. Which of the criteria used in #1 are subjective and which are not? Using the biblical criteria only, how does Grace measure up?
3. According to the above referenced passage in the book of Hebrews, we are encouraged to “draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.” Who or what are we to draw near to? How does one show a sincere heart? Can a believer’s “full assurance of faith” be manifested to others for evaluation? If so, how? How does Grace measure up using faith as a criterion for measurement?
4. What constitutes a believer’s confession of hope? Why is hope an important criterion for an assessment of a believer or a church?
5. According to Matthew 22:37-40 love has to be manifested towards God and humans. Can a person’s love for God be evaluated by another person or by the individual himself alone? How does Grace measure in her expressions of love?
6. Hebrews 10:24 teaches us to stimulate one another to good deeds. How and in what ways can one believer stimulate another to good works? Romans 1:17 states: “But the righteous man shall live by faith.” James 2:17-20 states “that faith without works is useless.” What other scriptures can you find that tie faith and good deeds?
7. From Apostle Paul’s evaluation of the churches in Colosse and Corinth we notice that the former possessed the biblical criteria of faith, hope, love and good deeds while the latter did not. What are some of the manifestations Paul observes to contrast these two churches. How would Paul evaluate Grace if he were to use the same criteria?