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prove your own selves.”

Let all of us resolve to be obedient in this matter of self-examination. Let us be diligent in our self-examination so we won't come short of the promised salvation! ♦

(Lee—continued from page 6)

Above all we ask that you seriously pray for this family and for the Lord's work in Thailand. While the need for financial support is great, the need for the prayers of God's people is greater.

We thank our God for all He has done and we thank Him for what He is going to do in and through Bro. Matthew Villandry, his family and their work in Thailand. ♦



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

To testify the gospel of the grace of God.. Acts 20:24

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THAILAND MISSION REPORT

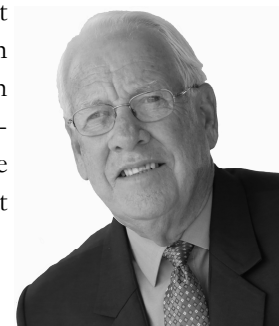
PASTOR BILL LEE

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21.

We truly have a great God who always exceeds our expectations. He works among us in our service unto Him in ways that bring honor and glory unto Himself, and causes us to simply stand in awe at the workings of His mighty power. He not only has blessed us with all spiritual blessings, He has also given unto us exceeding great and precious promises. We are thankful for the many promises of our God, for we know “all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us”. II Corinthians 1:20.

Many of you are familiar with the Lord's work in Thailand. This mis-

sion work began in 1997 and has always been a work of faith and a labor of love. Over the years we have seen God's hand upon this work in a very special way. He truly has done far more than we could possibly have asked or even thought. One of His great promises we have constantly relied on is recorded in Philippians 4:19; “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Time and time again we have experienced the fulfillment of this great promise. Throughout the years there have been many needs in this work of the Lord, and I can honestly say every one of these needs has been met by the Lord. We hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised, Hebrews 10:23.



When there was a need for someone to be among the pastors and others in the villages of northern Thailand to teach them sound biblical doctrine, the Lord filled that need by sending Bro. Wayne Camp to the work. No one could possibly have been more suited to fill this need than Bro. Camp. He labored tirelessly and faithfully in both teaching and in preaching among the villages. The results and effects of Bro. Wayne Camp's labors in Thailand are still very evident today.

When Bro. Camp's health began to fail and he was no longer physically able to return to Thailand there was a great void in the work. There was a need for someone to be on this mission field full time and to carry on this work. As always with our God, and according to His promise, He graciously filled this need. The supply for this need came in the person of Bro. Paul Brown.

Being called of God to go to Thailand, Bro. Brown resigned as pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church, joined Central Baptist Church and was sent out as a missionary to Thailand. Bro. Brown has continued the work begun by Bro. Wayne Camp of systematically teaching the village pastors and preaching in the village churches. The Lord's hand remains upon this work and the gospel of Jesus Christ continues to spread from village to village. Churches

are being strengthened in the faith and pastors are being more grounded in biblical truth.

This work in Thailand is an ever expanding work as there are so many people and villages which are yet unreached. Bro. Brown is constantly being asked to go to more and more villages, carrying the good news of Jesus Christ. But one man can only do so much, and Bro. Brown cannot possibly meet the pressing need of being in more and more villages. So, we have this need of someone to share the burden of this work in Thailand. There is a great need for a fellow laborer, as the field in the mountains of Thailand are white unto harvest.

For some time now Bro. Brown and I have been praying for our God to supply this great need. We trust His promise and we have been patiently waiting for the fulfillment of His promise. We have never doubted our God in this matter for we know He who cannot lie would do exactly as He has said. But we did not know when and we did not know how God would supply this need. We just knew that He would keep His word and He would fill the need. All we knew to do was to keep trusting, keep praying, and keep patiently waiting for the Lord.

As we were praying, trusting,

righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)" A sure mark of an unconverted heart is its carelessness and indifference about the souls of lost sinners.

(18) Do I walk by faith and look to God for guidance in all things, or do I think my own wisdom and ability are sufficient for my life?

(19) How do I respond to the trials God sends my way in life? Do I grumble and complain and blame God for those trials? or, Do I realize and believe that all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to his purpose?

(20) Am I terrified at the thought of my own death? Am I terrified when I find I have some serious disease? Those who walk closely with God in true salvation have a certain comfort and peace and quiet as they consider their own deaths. If thoughts of dying and going into eternity terrify you and are awful to you, even if you claim to be saved, are you really saved?

(21) Do I rejoice in Christ each day?

5. A fifth thing involved in the matter of how to examine yourself is that you must ask God to search you. True self-examination always leads to a desire to be searched

and corrected by God. It causes a person to pray with David in Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." It causes a person to pray with David again in Psalm 26:2, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."

CONCLUSION

In concluding this message there remain a few very brief remarks that need to be made.

1. First of all, false assurance of salvation leads to a tendency to avoid self-examination. One of the greatest evidences of a lack of saving faith is neglect of self-examination. Proper, biblical self-examination is good for us. It will reveal to us either that we are truly in the faith, or that we are not genuine Christians.

2. Proper self-examination should clear up one's doubt and despair rather than creating these things. Proper self-examination should drive us to Christ the Saviour instead of to despair! Charles Spurgeon said that biblical self-examination destroys, not security but carnal security, not confidence but fleshly confidence, not peace but false peace! "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;

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and king? Prophet to tell me God's will, priest to take my sins and die for them and accomplish for me the perfect righteousness which God requires of me, and king to protect me and provide for me and rule over me as Lord. Many today have only received Christ as their priest or Saviour, but have refused him as their king or Lord. They have not received a whole Christ. Thus they are lost!

(9) Do I love Christ above all things, even my family, as he requires of those who would be his disciples? In Matthew 10:37 the Lord Jesus says, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

(10) Am I willing to part with everything I have instead of sinning against God? The Lord Jesus says in Luke 14:33, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

(11) Do I obey the commands of Christ because I love him, or for some other reason?

(12) What about basic Christian duties, such as daily Bible reading and secret prayer and regular attending with God's people? Do I practice these?

(13) If I do practice these, do I do so because I want to or purely as a

matter of duty?

(14) Am I a new creature in Christ Jesus as II Corinthians 5:17 describes all true Christians? "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The question here is, Am I a new creature? not, Have I gone down to the front of the church?

(15) Am I pretending to be something that is not real? Do I have a name to be alive, but am actually dead? Is my faith a hypocritical one like that of Judas, who followed the Lord for three years, only for profit as the treasurer of the church?

(16) Is my faith a matter of seeming grace like that of the five foolish virgins, who, in the end, were shut out of the marriage?

(17) Does it hurt and trouble me to see people continue in sin and unbelief? Grief over the sins of others is a true evidence of grace. The true Christian will always look with pity and concern on the unsaved around him. He will, like Jeremiah, grieve over the sins and wickedness of his own nation! Is Psalm 119:158 my testimony when it says, "I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word." Even Lot in Sodom grieved over the sins of the wicked around him. II Peter 2:8 says, in speaking of Lot, "(For that

and waiting, and unknown unto us, the Lord was already working and carrying out His purpose. Bro. Matthew Villandry, pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Wagoner, Oklahoma, and his wife Brittany were already impressed of the Lord of the need for them to visit the work in Thailand. Once in Thailand and experiencing the work first hand, they both knew this is where the Lord would have them in His service.

I have been in Thailand with the Villandrys on two separate occasions and I have clearly seen the call of God in their lives for this work. The people in the villages immediately and lovingly received the Villandrys. It is equally evident Bro. Villandry and Brittany have a love, a concern and a heart for this mission work. They have a God given desire to live and to minister among the hill tribes of northern Thailand. In addition to being a minister of the gospel, Bro. Villandry is also a pharmacist and will be an invaluable source of help in the established medical work in Thailand.

Bro. Villandry has resigned as pastor of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Wagoner, Oklahoma. And on November 25, 2018, he, Brittany, and their daughter Lyla joined Central Baptist Church of Grenada, Mississippi. This was followed immediately by Cen-

tral Baptist Church voting to send the Villandrys to Thailand as missionaries out of our church. In separate articles in this paper you can read of the recommendation from the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Wagoner, Oklahoma, as well as statements from Bro. Villandry and Bro. Paul Brown.

We are excited, grateful and completely overwhelmed with God's provision in filling our great need. We are looking forward to the time when Bro. Matt Villandry, Brittany, and their family will be able to move to their new home—northern Thailand. They are already in the process of selling their home, business, and belongings here in the U. S. They are leaving family, friends and loved ones in order to go where the Lord has called them.

Bro. Villandry is leaving all and going to Thailand in answer to God's call and he needs financial support. He will need living expense for his family as well as financial support for his work in Thailand. These are real needs and needs we have no doubt our Lord will supply. As has been the case since 1997, the Lord has used His people and churches to fill the financial needs of His work in Thailand. We are asking you to prayerfully consider helping us in this matter of support.

(Lee—continued on page 6)

THAILAND LETTER

MATTHEW VILLANDRY

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

In 2013, while serving as associate pastor at Coweta Baptist Church, Missionary to Thailand Paul Brown came to tell about the Lord’s work among the hill tribes in northern Thailand. I was captivated by the open doors, and the abundant opportunity for people to hear the gospel for the first time. This captivation with mission work was nothing new for me. From the time I was a child, I always looked forward to listening to visiting missionaries and was heartbroken when they had to leave our house, where they often stayed while in town. When Bro. Paul and Sister Susan visited, they gave me a Lahu Bible and hymnal, and I remember them asking for us to pray for them and to pray that the Lord would send more labourers.

In 2014, I was called to be pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Wagoner, OK. Shortly after, I began preaching through the Gospel of Matthew. After a couple of years we came to Matthew chapter nine. Preaching on the Lord of the

Harvest, I remember telling the congregation that the Lord may answer your prayers...with you. This is what we see in Matthew chapter 10. The apostles did pray as the Lord commanded in chapter 9, and he answered their prayers by sending them into the harvest. I really had no idea at the time how the Lord would later use this passage of scriptures to call me to the harvest.

In 2017, there seemed to be an open door to visit one of the missionaries we support in Guyana. The trip was scheduled but not booked when in July our family business was destroyed by a fire, throwing us into a flurry of busyness and change. Unfortunately, this also meant the door to Guyana was closed for us. After reopening the business I continued to become more and more burdened with missions and began to wonder if the Lord could use the pharmacy and/or my degree to serve foreign missions in some way or another. I was directed to speak with Pastor Bill Lee who often takes another pharmacist, Ricky Cash, with him to Thailand every year. I called to discuss some of the details and workings behind what they do and they invited us to go with them on their next trip to help.

Holy Spirit in doing so. Ask God to help you to carefully and honestly examine yourself as to where you stand with him. Our true spiritual condition can be revealed to us only by the Holy Spirit and the written word of God.

3. Third, don’t trust your heart’s first reaction when you begin this work. Remember, because your heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, your feelings may deceive you in this matter. Proverbs 28:26 says, “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool.”

4. A fourth thing involved in the matter of how self-examination can be carried out is this: closely interrogate yourself concerning your own standing before God. Self-examination is done by means of self-interrogation, asking questions of one’s self concerning one’s own spiritual condition. Remember, self-examination is an inquisition. It is court set up to try your standing with God. There are any number of important questions we should ask ourselves in this important work as we seek to determine whether we are in the faith. Philip Henry, the father of Matthew Henry who wrote the great Bible commentary, kept a check list of questions that he regularly asked himself in his exercises of self-examination. You may find keeping such a list to be profitable in your

own times of self-examination.

Here are some questions that may prove helpful in your own exercise of self-examination. Ask yourself:

(1) Was I ever thoroughly convinced of my sin and lost condition before God?

(2) Am I secretly gratifying some sinful lust, physically or else mentally, and in a substitutionary way, such as through dirty movies or soap operas or pornography?

(3) Is there some secret sin in my life, or some wicked habit, of which I refuse to repent?

(4) Do I, on the very day I come into God’s house, allow myself in known sins?

(5) Am I blinded to sins in myself? Can I see sins in others, but not in myself?

(6) Have I truly seen my own righteousness as filthy rags in God’s eyes, or do I still think that, because of my deeds or conduct, I shall gain some consideration with God?

(7) Am I trusting in a decision I made back there somewhere in the past, or in Jesus Christ himself for salvation? In self-examination, the question is not whether you really believed or made a decision back there somewhere. The question is whether you now believe.

(8) Have I, in believing in Christ for salvation, received a whole Christ, a Christ who is prophet and priest

True repentance is when a person comes to mourn over sin as his greatest evil, and not just some sins, but all his sins.

3. Thirdly, self-examination is necessary because it is the prudent thing to do. A good business man will periodically examine his company books to see what monies he has on hand and whether his business is growing or failing. Every wise and prudent Christian will do the same in regard to his own standing with God.

Another and critically important question in relation to our text is this:

HOW CAN SELF EXAMINATION BE CARRIED OUT?

There are at least seven things one must do in carrying out this self-examination:

1. First, one must use the right standard in doing it. The duty of self-examination presupposes that there is a standard by which this work can be done. Those few persons who do any self-examination often examine themselves by a false standard. The correct standard for self-examination is not tradition, nor antiquity, nor the opinion of men, but God's holy word, the scriptures. Our deceitful hearts often cause us to compare ourselves with others as the standard, and to always choose the

worst of others as that standard.

But we must examine ourselves, not by the standard of the opinions of men, but by the standard of God's holy word. Only God's word is infallible. Everything else must be tested and re-tested by that word! My friend, when you set out to exercise self-examination, take the light of God's word into your soul. The word of God will assist you in the work of self-investigation and self-knowledge. Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us that the word of God is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." The word of God will reveal what is really in our hearts and thus it is indispensable in any proper self-examination. We must often subject ourselves to examination and re-examination in light of the standard of God's word.

2. Second, pray for God's help in this work. The work of the Holy Spirit is necessary for us to understand God's word and to apply God's word. Pray for the help of the



Matthew, Brittany,
Cohen, Lyla, Caleb,
Benjamin Villandry

In January, 2018 the Lord providentially opened a door for my wife Brittany and I to visit the Browns in Thailand with brother Bill Lee and Ricky Cash. We returned to the US with a burden as well as a broken heart, for we hated to leave. While in Thailand, I felt as if the Lord could be calling me and my family there. Not knowing if this was the emotional side of saying goodbye to friends, or the excitement of preaching the Lord Jesus Christ to people who have never heard His name, I kept this to myself and began to pray. During our visit, the Browns had once again asked us to pray for the Lord to send labourers. I was taken back to when they first visited Coweta Baptist Church, and

this has been their request since they began.

In October, after continually seeking the Lord's will for the past ten months, the Lord made it clear, He is indeed calling me and my family to the mission field of Thailand to help the Browns with the many open doors there. In November of this year, we were able to make a return trip to visit with the Browns and were able to discuss some of these opportunities and open doors. There are enough men for a second pastors' training in Burma and over 20 Lahu villages that are completely unreached all within a few miles of the area where we will be living. This is a great burden to me! To preach the unsearchable riches of Christ

among a people who have never heard the name of Jesus must certainly be the greatest privilege on earth! Who am I, to receive such a blessing as this? Who am I to be called to leave all and follow him into this foreign land? I am not worthy! His glory must be made known unto the nations! Praise be to God! Will you please pray for us? ♦

GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 1178
WAGONER, OKLAHOMA 74477

To Central Baptist Church; Grenada MS:

We, the members of Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Wagoner OK, send this statement of support and understanding for Brother Matthew Villandry. Brother Matthew, Sister Brittany, and Sister Lyla leave our Church in good standing. It is with much sadness and joyfulness as they leave our Church to join Central Baptist Church in answering God's call to the mission field in Thailand. We as a Church only desire for God's Will to be done in their lives as they seek this new path in God's plan.

Members of Grace Missionary Baptist Church

(Lee—continued from page 3)

Bro. Villandry and his family will spend some time visiting churches and telling of God's call in his life and their deep burden for this work. If you would like for Bro. Villandry to visit your church and to present this work, you can contact him at 918-798-7256 or matthewvillandry@gmail.com. You can also contact me at 662-230-0198 or billandjan@cablone.net, and also at P.O. Box 876 Grenada, MS 38902.

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bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." We are commanded here to examine ourselves each time we observe the Lord's Supper, and this self-examination is essential to proper observance of the Supper. In the case of the Lord's Supper, self-examination is meant to aid us in discovering sin and guilt in order to be able to come to the Supper in the proper spiritual condition. Verse 31 of the passage we just read says that proper self-examination in preparation for the Lord's Supper will keep us from coming under God's chastisement. Why should we practice this self-examination? Because God's word requires that we do so and that's reason enough in itself! Self-examination is an important part of our Christian duty!

2. Second, self-examination is necessary because the danger of self-deception is great. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us the true condition of the human heart when it says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" So deceitful are our sinful hearts that they will convince us that we are

saved when we are not! Our deceitful hearts will cause us to settle for seeming grace rather than saving grace. The five foolish virgins had seeming grace. They had the same confession and expectation and clothing as the five wise virgins, but they lacked the essential oil of the Holy Spirit. These foolish virgins did not have saving grace, only seeming grace!

Because of his deceitful heart, one may get into the church and think that, because he has gotten in, all is therefore well with his soul. When conversion is preached, this person doesn't think it applies to him, but to others who are openly sinful, so he turns off his mind so to speak. Because of his deceitful heart, one can also easily mistake common grace for saving grace. God's common grace may load a man down with such benefits as freedom of religion, respect in the community, a Christian family and Christian friends. When surrounded by such gifts of God's common grace, one may conclude that he has God's saving grace when he does not.

A man's deceitful heart may cause him to mistake some troubling of conscience and sorrow for sin for true repentance. This person's conscience only struggles against sin because sin is troubling and damning to him. True repentance is not when a person is troubled because of sin.

own soul.

This self-examination also involves a spiritual dialogue with one's self. Examine yourselves. Examine the state of your own soul, Paul is saying in this text.

There are two main purposes of the self-examination Paul calls for here: 1. To show who is not a Christian and, 2. To show who is a Christian and therefore has the benefit of all the promises of God. Examine yourself! Ask yourself, do I have a spiritual and experimental knowledge of these doctrines we call the faith, and do I truly love and believe and feel them?

Look at the text again. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" The word reprobate here means not standing the test. It is a word that is usually applied in relation to the testing of metals. Paul says to Christians, test yourselves like you would test metal to see if it is genuine. The picture comes to mind here of the old man in the western movie who, when given a \$20 gold piece, bites it to see if it is genuine gold. The scripture is saying here, if one is not in the faith he is like reprobate silver, metal that is worthless and rejected. Jeremiah 6:30 uses the word reprobate to refer to those who have been

tested and rejected by God. "Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them." The scripture is saying here that we are to try ourselves to see if we are genuinely in the faith. We should thereby know that we are in the faith, unless of course, we fail the test.

WHY IS SELF EXAMINATION NECESSARY?

1. First and foremost, self-examination is necessary to the Christian because God's word commands it. God's word requires that the believer examine himself to make sure he is in a proper relationship to God. Look at the text again. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." Other scriptures as well urge us to self-examination. In Haggai 1:7 we read, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways." In Lamentations 3:40 we read, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD." II Peter 1:10 says to Christians, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure."

First Corinthians 11:28-31 lets us know that self-examination is required before partaking of the Lord's Supper. "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that

THAILAND REPORT

PAUL BROWN

"I have set before thee an open door...." What a thrill when the Lord sets before one of His preachers an open door for ministry.

Our blessing and yet difficulty is that we have more open doors than we can go through. Why did the Lord do this? Maybe so that we might pray

as our Lord taught us to pray, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest."

We have certainly been doing that! Now at 67 I am seeing the great need for help laboring in this field of Southeast Asia. We shall all soon be gone, but some of us know our time, humanly speaking, to be a little nearer than others.

The Lord has been answering our prayers. Recently Brother Matthew Villandry announced to his church that the Lord has called him to Thailand. He joined Central Baptist Church in Grenada, MS., and will come and join us to continue this

work of our church. We cannot tell you how thrilled we are about that! He and his wife Brittany have now visited us on the field twice and have been a great blessing to the people and to us. Our pastor, Brother Lee, and our home church are 100% behind them.

I remember Brother Matt from the first time that he visited the church I pastored. His father, Ken Villandry, was on deputation in order to go to Greece. He



recently told me how much he enjoyed traveling on deputation with his father. Susan and I found it a great delight ourselves. Each of the Lord's churches have a unique personality, though all have the same love for the Lord and burden for missions. We pray that each of you will open your arms to Brother Matt and family as you did to us.

Our ministry is primarily to the hill tribes. There are millions of these scattered throughout China and Southeast Asia. Through the

centuries they have been nomadic peoples who have kept to themselves, retaining their own culture and language. Since they haven't learned the language or the ways of the country where they live, they now have difficulties. They miss out on many opportunities such as schooling, jobs, and medical care.

There is little or no literature in their native languages and few chances to listen to sound teaching. They need a young man like Matt, who is a good and thorough teacher, with years of service to them yet ahead of him. Preachers' Training is an open door to not only the people of Thailand and Myanmar, but possibly also to Laos, Vietnam, and China, in the future. By training the preachers, the sound teaching reaches into those countries where we can't go.

Brittany is also a good teacher and can help raise up a generation of English readers. Those who are fluent in English speaking and reading will have the advantage of a good Bible translation and good literature. Many advantages will be available to them that their parents missed.

One problem with the tribes not knowing the language of their

country is the difficulty getting medical care. They can't talk to the doctors or understand the doctors' instruction. We have done what we could to help them in this area. What a blessing to have a trained medical professional to add to our team! Matt is a pharmacist and will be far more able to help with those needs.

Brother Matt and I have discussed extensively our Biblical doctrine, practice and goals and have found ourselves to be in agreement. We feel that the Villandrys are the needed help for whom we have been praying.

In every way, Matt and Brittany are compatible with our beliefs, our work ethic, and our love for the Lord and the people of Thailand. We are counting the days for them to finish raising support and join us in the work here.

I hope you will prayerfully consider having them to your church, praying for them concerning the great work before them, and taking them on for support as the Lord would lead you.

For Christ count everything but loss... Brother Paul! ♦

SELF EXAMINATION

LAURENCE JUSTICE

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." II Corinthians 13:5

This command to examine ourselves sounds novel to the ears of modern-day Christians. Self-examination is rarely mentioned in Christian circles today. Like the doctrine of repentance, biblical self-examination is a lost doctrine. It has long since been abandoned, especially by the non-Lordship teachers of our day. When self-examination is mentioned today it is either ignored or else explained away. Some even say it is spiritually harmful. These people say it turns a Christian in on himself, thus causing him to lose sight of Christ. Those who oppose biblical self-examination often refer to it as morbid introspection. What some call self-examination may actually be introspection, but this sad fact must not keep us from proper obedience to the command in our text. Non-Lordship teachers insist that self-examination leads to doubting God's promises. This in spite of the fact that we are clearly commanded in our text to "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." Therefore, those who oppose self-examination by Christians oppose the word of God. In exercising biblical

self-examination, one does not question the promises of God. Instead, he questions whether he is among those to whom the promises apply.

WHAT DOES SELF EXAMINATION MEAN?

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." "The faith" here has reference to the doctrines of the faith, the same faith for which Jude 3 says Christians are to earnestly contend.

The word examine here means to try or to test or to prove. The same word is translated to prove ten times and to try four times in the New Testament. The self-examination commanded in this text is setting up court in one's own conscience, and the court called for here is a most unusual court. In this court, the Christian is the one on trial, the Christian is the attorney who presents the case, and at the same time the Christian is the judge. Thomas Watson said that self-examination is a spiritual inquisition set up in the soul. Self-examination is the scrutiny of one's inner self to determine his spiritual status, motives and attitudes. One who examines himself in this sense takes a survey of things in his