

Preacher's Pen points

HAD A CHECK-UP LATELY?



A good rule of physical health is to have regular check-ups. Often what might have caused serious illness is avoided with routine treatment. Spiritual check-ups are needed too. Paul challenged the Corinthians, “*Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith*” (II Cor. 13:5). Let’s take a spiritual check-up.

Check your heart! In the first place, where is your heart? In heaven or in earth? (Mt. 6:19-21) Do you “*set your affections on things above and not on the things that are on earth*”? (Col. 3:2)

In the second place, what fills your heart? Jesus spoke of those who wrought the sinful deeds of “*evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.*” (Mk. 7:21-23) Check yours to see if it is thinking as it should!

Check your hands! The hands in the Bible are a symbol of our occupation. Are we “*working with our hands the things that are good*” (Eph. 4:28)? Can we say every dollar we have made has been from honorable and honest activity? When our prayers go up to God, can they be made “*lifting up holy hands*”? (I Tim. 2:8)

Check your feet! The Hebrew writer urges us to “*make straight paths for our feet*” (Heb. 12:13) so that in turning aside from the straight and narrow we wrongly influence those who journey near us, causing them to stumble. Check your example. Would it encourage or discourage others from becoming a Christian?

Check your mouth! James said to the shame of some, “*from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing.*” (Jas. 3:10) How often are we guilty of this incongruous combination? Is our mouth used to “*confess Jesus as Lord*” (Rom. 10:9)? With it do we speak boldly God’s Truth to others? (Eph. 6:19).

Check your eyes! Job made a covenant with his (Job 31:1) that he would not use them to gaze lustingly at those to whom he had no right. Have you made such an agreement? That you will not look at books, magazines, TV shows, or others with lust in your heart?

Furthermore, Job asserted that he had not “*walked after his eyes*” (Job 31:7); that is, he had not directed his life without consideration of what God said. Do you search for wisdom from God before you make decisions in life?

Check your ears! The Hebrew writer rebuked those he called “*dull of hearing*”. (Heb. 5:11-14) Their spiritual inattentiveness and lack of concentration rendered them ignorant of the simplest truths of the gospel at a time when they should know so much more. Are you listening and learning at every Bible class and service?

Well then, how did you do? If you passed, don’t quit checking but keep improving in the good qualities you have. If you failed, give attention to the problem now — before it is too late. A check-up now may prevent failure at the judgment!
—Johnny Felker