

CHECK YOURSELF

SCRIPTURE:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-25).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Oil Dip Stick

MAIN MESSAGE:

Don't forsake the "maintenance" of our relationship with God.

SONG: "I've Been Crucified With Christ"

LESSON:

Feeling the vibration for the third time, I finally looked to see who kept calling me. It was my beautiful wife who knew I was in a meeting. Thinking she just need me to pick up milk on the way home I hit ignore and would call back. Leaving the very important meeting about Bible Camp, I called back to some bad news. She told me that the car had started smoking and shaking on the way home from Sunday worship, and barely came to a rolling stop in the driveway. The car threw a rod, destroying the engine because it ran out of oil. I thought, "Surely after only three months since the last oil change there would be plenty of oil". WRONG! The simple little rod that takes all of ten seconds to pull out and check could have saved the engine and thousands of dollars.

After listing the "works of the flesh," Paul instructs us what kind of characteristics a Christian must display (Gal 5:22-24). If we strive to possess and practice the Fruit of the Spirit in our everyday lives, we will be ready for whatever may come. In 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22, Paul gives us a few more things to check on. Praying always will keep us from temptation and sin.

A car needs constant care and maintenance, so does our Christian life. We cannot just put gas in the tank and expect the car to run at top efficiency forever, and we cannot expect to simply attend worship and think we will be ready for what the Devil will throw at us. Just as we keep a well-maintained car, keep a close watch on our walk with God.

PRAYER: Pray for help in keeping in step with the spirit (Gal 5:25) and to never forget the cost of our salvation.