

Remarks by Roland Priddle
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What this is NOT about—e.g. “10 ways to share Christ with the person in the next office”; “how I lived an ever onwards and upwards Christian life with a marvellous witness during 33 years in the public service”; “how God blessed me with a beautiful wife, children, big home, nice car, large bank account, great golf game etc.”

What this IS about—“Examine yourself...(2 Corinthians 13:5)...”know thyself”....”the examined Christian life”.

Few people welcome the auditor, there won't be any in heaven, but they are needed in our fallen world and for fallen people. The Bible gives us components for an audit program. It's a DIY operation.

Christian self-auditing is challenging. Because God's requirements of us are very demanding. How could they be otherwise? God's standards are out of this world. Outside of Christ they are of course unattainable.

- **What does my work life do to my “ambitions life”?**---this is feedback from work life---do I “love the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:43) and do I receive honour of others and not the honour that comes of God (John 5:44)? [“There has to be more to life than a big bank balance”]
- **What is my “family life” like?**---do I love my wife to the extent of being ready to die for her (Ephesians 5:25)? Do I rule (manage) my own home and children (1 Timothy 3:4,5,12)? Have I taught (Deuteronomy 6:4-7), trained (Proverbs 22:6), patterned (Titus 2:7) and not provoked (Ephesians 6:4) my children? [Jean Pronovost pointed one man to Christ by the way he showed his love for his wife]
- **What is my “Word of God” life like?**---is His Word more to me than my necessary food (Job 23:13)? Do I handle it skilfully and reverently thereby seeking God's approval (2 Timothy 2:15)?
- **What is my thought life like?**---This is the toughest by far because God knows my downsitting and upstanding and understands my thoughts afar off (Psalm 139:2)--Do I bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5)—Do I commit thought adultery and idolatry (Matthew 5:28)?
- **And does my Christian speech life** properly reflect the Word of God life, thought life and heart life (Colossians 3:1)? Is my speech “of the eternal wisdom, longing and straining for it with all the strength of my heart” (Confessions, Book XI Section 10)?

I know that I have not yet attained, either were already perfect (=complete, finished) but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me (Philippians 3:12).

And what about the environment in which I live out these “lives”? How do I affect it? How does it affect me?

1. How does the society react to me as a Christian?

- How does the Canadian society in which I live view me as a Christian (Take the “would there be enough evidence?” test, please)?
- And how does that society regard Christians—is it “bland”? Hostile? Helpful?

2. How do I as a Christian react to the culture?

- Hedonism is the essential cultural matrix of our time (agree?)
- Do the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word of God in me and has that made me unfruitful (Matthew 13:23)?