

Scriptures: The Law of Love (Ex. 20) & Luke 8:1-3; John 20:11-18
Singing: 309:1-4 – 435: 9 – 69:1-4 – 140:1-2 – 69:6-7

Intro: All saints share a likeness though all have different stories of salvation

A. The three essentials of a true conversion are *universal*

B. Our task is to examine whether we know these essentials: 2 Cor. 13:5

1. You cannot make or fake a *change of heart*

2. Only you (besides God) can examine *your heart*

C. Our task of examination is vital for spiritual health

1. Needs to be done when we personally covenant with God (Matt. 10:37-39)

2. Needs to be done after having made our confession of faith (2 Cor. 13:5)

3. Needs to be done before partaking of the Lord's Table (1 Cor. 10-11)

4. Needs to be done in reflection (1 Cor. 6:10; 2 Cor. 7:1)

D. The 'standard' of our examination are God's saints in Scripture

1. Mary Magdalene is woman delivered from bondage (Luke 8:2)

2. She grew in her understanding of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18)

3. She became one of Jesus most faithful and humble followers (Luke 8:1-3)

The Portrait of the Saint of God

I. Freed from bondage II. Looking unto Jesus III. Serving in love

I. God's saints are freed from the bondage of sin

A. When unsaved, you are in bondage like Mary Magdalene was (John 8:31-44)

1. if unsaved you are *ruled by the power of darkness and live as an idolater*
a. Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19

2. yet while living in this bondage, you might feel as Saul in Rom. 7:9

B. If saved, Jesus has entered into your heart & life as Deliverer (Luke 8:2)

1. as He delivered Mary Magdalene, so he does with us: *breaks power of sin*
a. by the opening of your 'mind' to sin (John 8:44)

b. by the agreement of your mind to God's judgment (Ps. 51)

II. God's saints are looking to Jesus Christ as their only hope

A. Only *after* Jesus delivered Mary Magdalene, she began to know Jesus Christ

1. knowing everything about Him is no sign of being saved

2. saving faith is *knowledge – devotion – surrender* (Luke 8:1; John 20:11-15)

B. The main work of the Father is to *unite* us by faith to Jesus Christ

1. He opens our mind (revelation) to Jesus as only hope, only Name: Acts 4:12

C. This 'drawing of your heart' to Jesus is something you can *observe and know!*

1. Mary Magdalene (John 20:15-16) – Peter (John 21:15-17) knew it

III. God's saints main joy is to serve King Jesus and His Kingdom

A. Mary Magdalene gave her all to serve her Savior: Luke 8:1-3

B. A true conversion is discipleship, no matter the cost (Luke 14:26-27)

1. If you truly love Jesus, you *want to serve Him in His Kingdom*

2. Active discipleship is the *outward evidence* of being a true Christian!

C. You can examine whether you have truly enlisted yourself in Jesus' Kingdom!

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils:

Ye cannot be partaker of the Lord's table, and of the table of the devils.

But let a man examine himself

And so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

1 Cor. 10:21; 11:28