

**BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
PAUL'S FINAL WARNINGS
2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-10**

How did Paul minister to the unrepentant among the Corinthians in his final appeal to them? Let's read our text in 2 Corinthians 13:1-10.

I. PAUL WARNED THEM! (13:1-4)

He warned them concerning the chastisement that was about to come to the unrepentant on his next visit to them!

When Paul warned those that were still as yet unrepentant concerning the chastisement that was about to come to them, he was referring to what we commonly refer to as Church discipline!
(Cf. Vs 1 with Matthew 18:15-20)

Paul, in 13:2, wanted to make sure that the still unrepentant Corinthians among them understood that they had been warned in advance of the chastisement that would spare none of them!

Paul, in 13:3, made it clear to these still as yet unrepentant Corinthians that the reason why he was bringing judgment upon them was to provide them with proof that the same Christ who was strong in them was the same Christ who spoke in him!

The further proofs that Paul provided in 13:4 that the Christ who was mighty in them was the same Christ who spoke in him were the parallels between him and Christ.

II. PAUL EXHORTED THEM! (13:5-6)

Paul exhorted them to “*examine*” themselves and to “*prove*” themselves so that they might find the necessary proof to see that they were in fact “*in the faith*”.

When Paul exhorted the Corinthians to “*examine*” themselves and “*prove*” themselves to see if they were “*in the faith*”, several things immediately come to mind.

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To be “*in the faith*” first means to be genuinely saved!

There is a certain group of essential doctrines called in the New Testament “*the faith*.”

Acts 16:5 And so were the churches established *in the faith*, and increased in number daily.

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak *in the faith* receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast *in the faith*, quit you like men, be strong.

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of *the household of faith*.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of *the faith*, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

1 Timothy 3:13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness *in the faith* which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from *the faith*, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:21 Which some professing have erred concerning *the faith*.

2 Timothy 3:8 ...so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning *the faith*.”

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2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept *the faith*:

And there are many other Scriptures!

“The faith” represents certain fundamental essential doctrines of the Christian religion and the Christian faith.

Philippians 1:27 speaks of the need for us to strive together for *the faith of the gospel.*”

That means those doctrines which are themselves a part of the Gospel as given in *1 Corinthians 15:3-4* “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

So, man’s sinful, lost condition, the atoning death of Christ, His resurrection from the dead, and therefore His deity and virgin birth, and the infallible accuracy of the Scriptures, are essentials of “the faith.”

In **2 John 9-11**, this faith, this essential foundation of the Christian religion, is called *“the doctrine of Christ.”* (That is, what the Bible teaches about Christ, who He is, His atoning death, His resurrection, His offer of salvation, His Second Coming, etc.)

In **Jude 3** we are commanded to *“earnestly contend for the faith.”*

Paul, by following up his exhortation with this question in the last part of **verse 5**, *“Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”*

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reprobates = “unapproved, that is, rejected; by implication worthless (literally or morally)” Translated as *castaway, rejected, reprobate.*

Christ is in them, they are born again, unless they pretend to claim Christ without accepting *“the faith.”*

One who does not believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, does not believe that He rose from the dead, does not believe that Jesus is really God—that one cannot have saving faith in Christ!

So, this was like a personal dare for them to follow through on his exhortation to make sure they were saved!

Paul hoped that by passing their own examination, the Corinthians would recognize that Paul had passed his test and that Christ indeed was speaking in him since it was through his work as a true apostle of Christ that they had been saved.

Genuine saving faith will be marked by an overflowing sense of sinfulness!

Romans 7:24 “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

Genuine saving faith will generally be marked by a practice of righteousness living. (1 John 2:29 cf. 3:5-7,10)

Genuine saving faith will be marked by love of the brethren. (1 John 4:7-11)

Genuine saving faith will be marked by obedience to the Lord’s commands. (John 14:15, 23-24; cf. 15:10)

May God give us the grace to live our lives in such a way that we will know that we in fact are children of God and have been saved by grace through faith.

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PAUL WARNED THEM...EXHORTED THEM...

III. PAUL PRAYED FOR THEM! (13:7-10)

Paul prayed that the Corinthians would do “*no evil*” but only that which was “*honest.*” (13:7)

If Paul’s prayer was answered and the Corinthians did “*no evil*” but only that which was “*honest*” there would have been no reason for Paul to initiate discipline against them.

Paul, in **13:8**, wanted the Corinthians to know that if he found them living in obedience to the truth, he would not initiate discipline against them, because he could do nothing “*against the truth.*”

Paul also wanted the Corinthians to know that if he found them living in disobedience to the truth, he would without hesitation initiate discipline against them, because he was “*for the truth.*”

In **13:9**, Paul prayed that the Corinthian Church would be brought to *perfection* (maturity or completion), he was talking about the Church going *from a broken condition to a repaired condition.*

In **13:10**, Paul hoped that the things he wrote to them would **edify** them, not **destroy** them and that the *sharpness* of the letter would prevent his having to use *sharpness* in person!

May God give us the grace to fervently and faithfully intercede for our brothers and sisters in Christ in prayer.