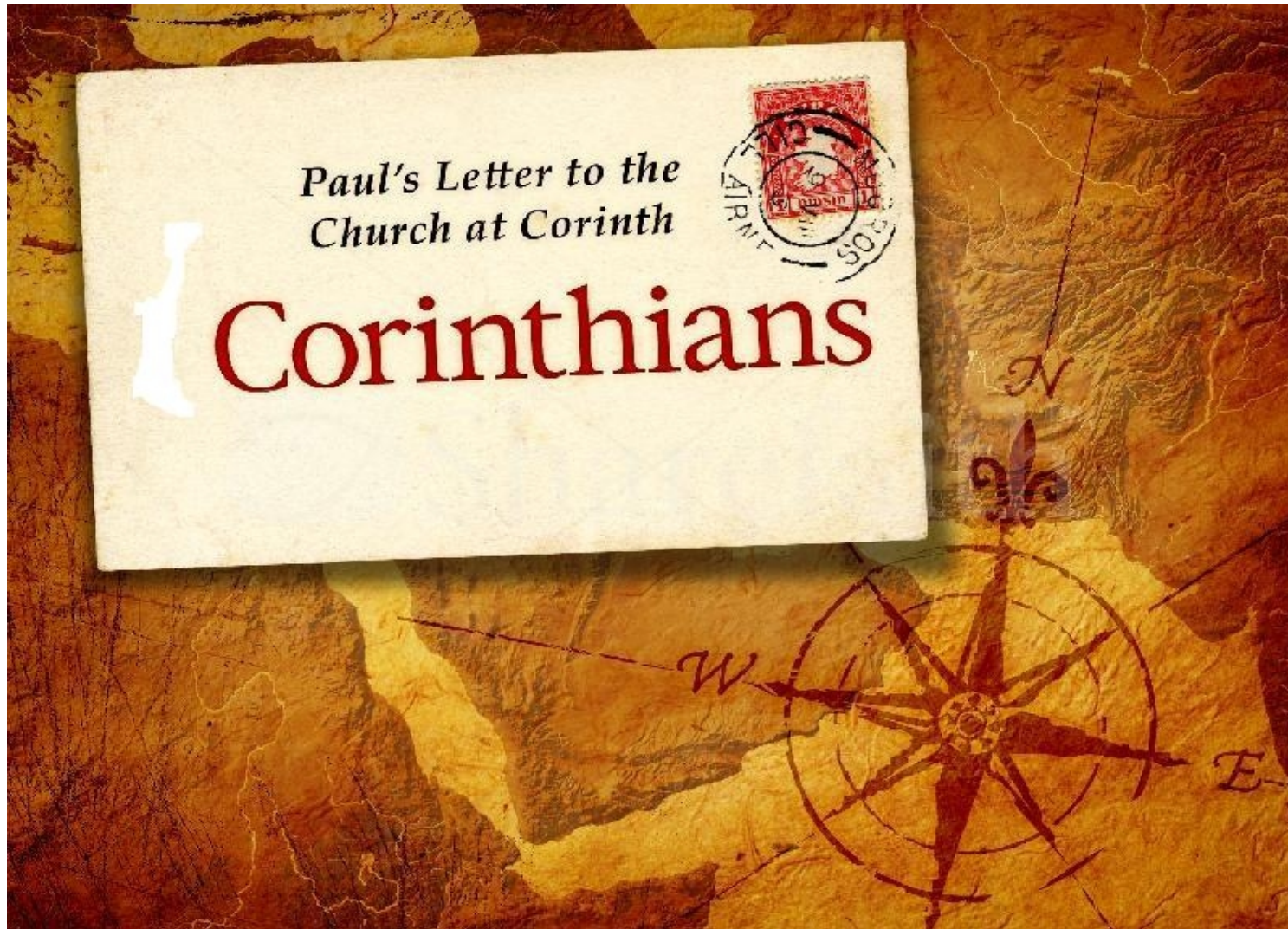


2 Cor 13:1- 6 Paul's Directive to Examine Yourself



Outline *



Exhortations in view of Paul's 3rd visit

1. Paul's concerns 12:19-21
2. Paul's warnings 13:1-10

Conclusion

- A. The exhortation 13:11-12
- B. The salutation 13:13
- C. The benediction 13:14

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Today's verses



1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

2 I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest *as well*, that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*,

3 since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you.

5 Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.

1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.



1st point - This is the third time I am coming to you
first visit: Act 18:1-18

- This was the start of the church in Corinth
- Paul preached in the synagogue at first
- He said from now on I will go to the Gentiles
- He settled there a year and six months
- The Jews with one accord rose up against Paul
- He took leave of the brethren and then to Ephesus

second visit:

- Called it a sorrowful visit
- Mentioned indirectly in 2 Cor 2:1 when he said: not come to you in sorrow again
- We also know it because he mentions the 3rd visit in Chp 12 and 13

1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.



2nd point - every fact [of accusation] is to be confirmed

- Paul wanted a public presentation of the facts*
- A judicial exam where these charges are evaluated*

OT Law: Deut 19:15 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

NT by Christ: Matt 18:16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

NT by Paul: 1Tim 5:19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.



2 I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest *as well*, that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*,
I have previously said when present the second time and though now absent I say in advance

- Paul had warned the Corinthians during his second or painful visit. He was now issuing a second warning in anticipation of his return to Corinth. Constable
- This warning is to two groups of people:
 - to those who have sinned in the past (man who had his father's wife)
 - to all the rest *as well* (they failed to submit to Paul's authority in 12:20b)*

3rd point - that if I come again I will not spare *anyone*,

*Constable



3 since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

since – modifies the verb “I will not spare” of verse 2

• What follows is his proof of his apostolic authority* [#4]

you [Corinthians] are seeking for proof

seek - *zēteō* - strive after, endeavor, to desire

proof - *dokimē* – the noun form of *dokimazo* – a test
with a view to approval

• We will see *dokimazo* in verses 5 and 6

of the Christ who speaks in me,

• All believers have the indwelling Christ

• Gal 2:20a I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.



3 since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

Paul describes Christ and how is working in the Corinthians.

who [Christ] is not weak toward you

weak - *astheneō* - to lack strength

toward – *eis* – in relation to

• Eph 6:10 be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

but – *alla* – in strong contrast

[Christ is] mighty in you

mighty - *dynateō* - to be powerful

in - *en* – in your union with Christ

• 2 Cor 9:5 Moreover, God is powerful to make every grace superabound to you in order that, --- you may superabound to every good work.

Wuest

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you.



Paul will now contrast Christ's life with a believer's life for indeed - for also [expanding verse 3b]

He was crucified – aorist - an event in time past

because of weakness - lit: out of weakness

- It displayed the weakness of His human body
- He put up no defense
- He did not open His mouth
- He did not appeal to Rome like Paul did*
- Isa 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.
- The appearance of this was weakness.* * Merryman

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you.



yet - or but – *alla* – in strong contrast

He lives – present tense continuous action – He is living!
because of the power of God

lit: out from the power of God

- Christ's birth was by the power of God

Matt 1:20b do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ---

23 Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son.

- Christ's resurrection displayed the power of God

- Heb 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you.



Now the believer's life:

for we [Paul and his team] also

are weak – present tense

in Him – in our living union with Christ

- Paul already has made his case about his weakness in Christ in 2 Cor 12:10:
- Therefore I am well content with weaknesses,
- with insults, with distresses, with persecutions,
- with difficulties, for Christ's sake;
- for when I am weak, then I am strong.

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you.



yet - but – *alla* – in strong contrast

we will live – future tense

- This is a statement of fact which will be explained by the remainder of the verse.

with Him – lit: together with Him

because of the power of God

lit: out from the power of God

- *directed* toward you [Corinthian].
- 2 Cor 12:9 --- "My grace is sufficient for you, for [Christ's] power is perfected in weakness." --- I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.



5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you - unless indeed you fail the test?

Paul will now encourage [or direct] the Corinthians to judicially try themselves*

test yourselves [Corinthians]

test – *peirazō* – to test, to prove – you could fail
(present, imperative)

- in our case the idea is to put yourself on trial*
- next we will see the issue of their testing

to see if you are in the faith

the faith – body of Christian truth

- Jude 1:3b --- I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.



5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you - unless indeed you fail the test?

What does it mean to put yourself on trial in regards to “the faith”?

- This is saying you are to measure yourself against objective truth [in the Bible]. Merryman
- Objective truths of the Gospel: Christ died for sins, He was buried, He was raised on the third day and He appeared to more than five hundred brethren.
- Every book of the Bible declares “objective truth” for us to know and believe and walk in it.
- 3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.
- Paul had taught the Corinthians objective truth while in Corinth.



5 Test yourselves *to* see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you - unless indeed you fail the test?

Next we get more detail on this testing:

[you] examine yourselves

examine - *dokimazō* - to test, to prove, with a view to approval (present, imperative)

- By using *dokimazo* Paul is saying he expects they will pass the test.
- Also this word has been used in verse 3 when he said: “you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me.”
- Paul was asking them (Corinthians) the same question they had asked of him!



5 Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you - unless indeed you fail the test?

do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you

recognize - *epiginōskō* - to gain a full knowledge of

- Every true believer is indwelt by Christ
- Gal 2:20a I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me
- Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- Paul's concern is their Christian walk - fellowship



5 Test yourselves *to* see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you - unless indeed you fail the test?

unless indeed you fail the test – present tense

- unless you are unapproved

Interlinear

unapproved - *adokimos* - signifying "not standing the test, rejected" (*a*, negative, *dokimos*, "approved")

- Paul allows that some at Corinth may fail the test (are not walking in truth).
- The logic of Paul's argument is compelling: If the Corinthians wanted proof of whether Paul's ministry was from Christ, they must look at themselves, not him [Paul].

Brown via Constable



6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test.

But I trust that you will realize that we [Paul and his team] ourselves do not fail the test

Lit: we are not unapproved – present tense

unapproved - *adokimos* - signifying "not standing the test, rejected" (*a*, negative, *dokimos*, "approved")

- Paul tells the Corinthians that we are passing the test, which is walking in the truth – in fellowship with Christ.
- 1 John 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Final Thoughts*



- Nowhere in the Bible is a Christian asked to examine either his [personal] faith or his life to find out if he is a Christian.
- He is told only to look outside of himself to Christ alone [objective truth] for his assurance that he is a Christian.
- The Christian is, however, often told to examine his faith and life to see if he is walking in fellowship and in conformity to God's commands [i.e. God's Word].

* Dillow via Constable

