

PROVE YOURSELVES

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

James Hamilton

2 Corinthians

- Paul was concerned how Corinth would react to his first epistle 1:23-2:2
- Titus returned with a good report 7:5-7
- However, Judaist teachers were undermining Paul and the gospel 3:1-18; 10:7-12; 11:16-23
- Paul is forced to defend himself 11:30; 12:11; 13:3

2 Corinthians 13:1-6

- This will be the third time I am coming to you. “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.” I have told you before, and foretell as if I were present the second time, and now being absent I write to those who have sinned before, and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare — since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.
- Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

2 Corinthians

- Paul is forced to defend himself 11:30; 12:11; 13:3
- 13:3 is the main idea of the book
- He proves himself to clear up the doubts and misunderstandings caused by the lies, slander, and perversions of truth about Paul by false teachers that could not refute truth
- Paul then tells them to do the same 13:5
Prove yourselves whether you are in the faith

Attacks and **Tactics** by the **False Teachers**

- **Can be inferred from Paul's statements**
- **Paul defends his sincerity 1:12-14**
- **Paul** has to explain **he** is **trustworthy**
1:15-2:3
- **He** is **not preaching** for **money** **2:17**
- **He** doesn't need a **letter of recommendation** **3:1-3; 10:13**

Attacks and **Tactics** by the **False Teachers**

- **Not being crafty or deceitful in preaching**
4:2
- **Some** may claim **he** is **crazy** **5:13; 6:8**
- **They attacked his speaking ability** **10:8-10**
- **Insinuated** that **Paul** didn't love the
Corinthians **11:7-12; 12:13**
- **Created doubts** in **their minds** **13:1-3**

2 Corinthians

- **1-7** Paul **Proves** His Discipleship
- **8-9** Paul Tells the Corinthians: *Prove the Sincerity of Your Love*
- **10-13** Paul **Proves** His Apostolic Authority

Paul Proves His Discipleship to the Corinthians – 2 Cor. 1-7

By his **genuine care** for the Corinthians **1:1-11**

By his **sincerity** **1:12-2:17**

demonstrated by **honesty** **1:15-2:4**

By **their conversion** **3:1-4:6**

By the **openness** of **heart** **4:7-7:16**

Paul Proves His Discipleship to the Corinthians – 2 Cor. 1-7

By the **openness** of **heart** **4:7-7:16**

a **heart moved** by **faith** **4:7-5:11**

a **heart moved** by **love** **5:12-21**

an **inoffensive ministry** **6:1-7:7**

an **effective ministry** **7:8-16**

Paul tells them to **open their hearts**

6:11-13; 7:2-4

Paul Tells the Corinthians: *Prove the Sincerity of Your Love* – 2 Cor. 8-9

1. By **using** examples of others **8:1-9**
the Macedonians **8:1-5**
Christ **8:8-9**
2. By **appealing** to their initial willingness **8:10-15**
a **willing** mind **8:10-12**
security in Christ **8:13-15**

Paul Tells the Corinthians: *Prove the Sincerity of Your Love* – 2 Cor. 8-9

3. By **assuring integrity** in the sight of **all men**
8:16-24
4. By **warning** that **their failure would embarrass them** **8:25-9:5**
5. By **describing** the **rewards** **9:6-15**
spiritual sowing and **reaping** **9:6-10**
glory to God **9:10-15**

Paul Proves His Apostolic Authority –

2 Cor. 10-13

Paul's authority from Christ produces Paul's boldness **10:1-11**

Paul's authority is not dependent on human opinion **10:12-18**

Paul's boasting is forced by false teachers' claims **11:1-13:10**

motive for boasting **11:1-4**

apostleship and voluntary preaching **11:5-15**

infirmities for Christ **11:16-12:10**

Paul Proves His Apostolic Authority –

2 Cor. 10-13

infirmities for Christ 11:16-12:10

the need to reluctantly boast 11:16-21

list of sufferings 11:22-33

contrasted glorious revelations 12:1-6

infirmities keep Paul humble and magnify

God's power 12:7-10

Paul's authority demonstrated by the signs

of an apostle 12:11-13

still acting in love and not for their money

12:13-18

moral authority 12:19-21

power to edify the Corinthians 13:1-10

