

(2 Corinthians 13:1-14)

CORINTHIANS

THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)

⁵ 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.

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

⁵ 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. - 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)



- **Defense of Paul's apostolic authority**
– 11:1-13:10
 - Concern for their faithfulness - 11:1-4
 - Equal to the others – 11:5,6
 - Paul's free gift to them – 11:7-11
 - Warns of false teachers – 11:12-15
 - Reluctant boasting in suffering – 11:16-31
 - Paul's thorn - - 12:1-10
 - Paul's authority & love - 12:11-21
 - Final warnings, admonitions - 13:1-10
 - Closing - 13:11-14

2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14 (NKJV)

- ¹ This will be the third time I am coming to you. “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”
- ² 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— ³ since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14 (NKJV)

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14 (NKJV)

⁷ Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified. ⁸ For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. ⁹ For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction. ¹¹

Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

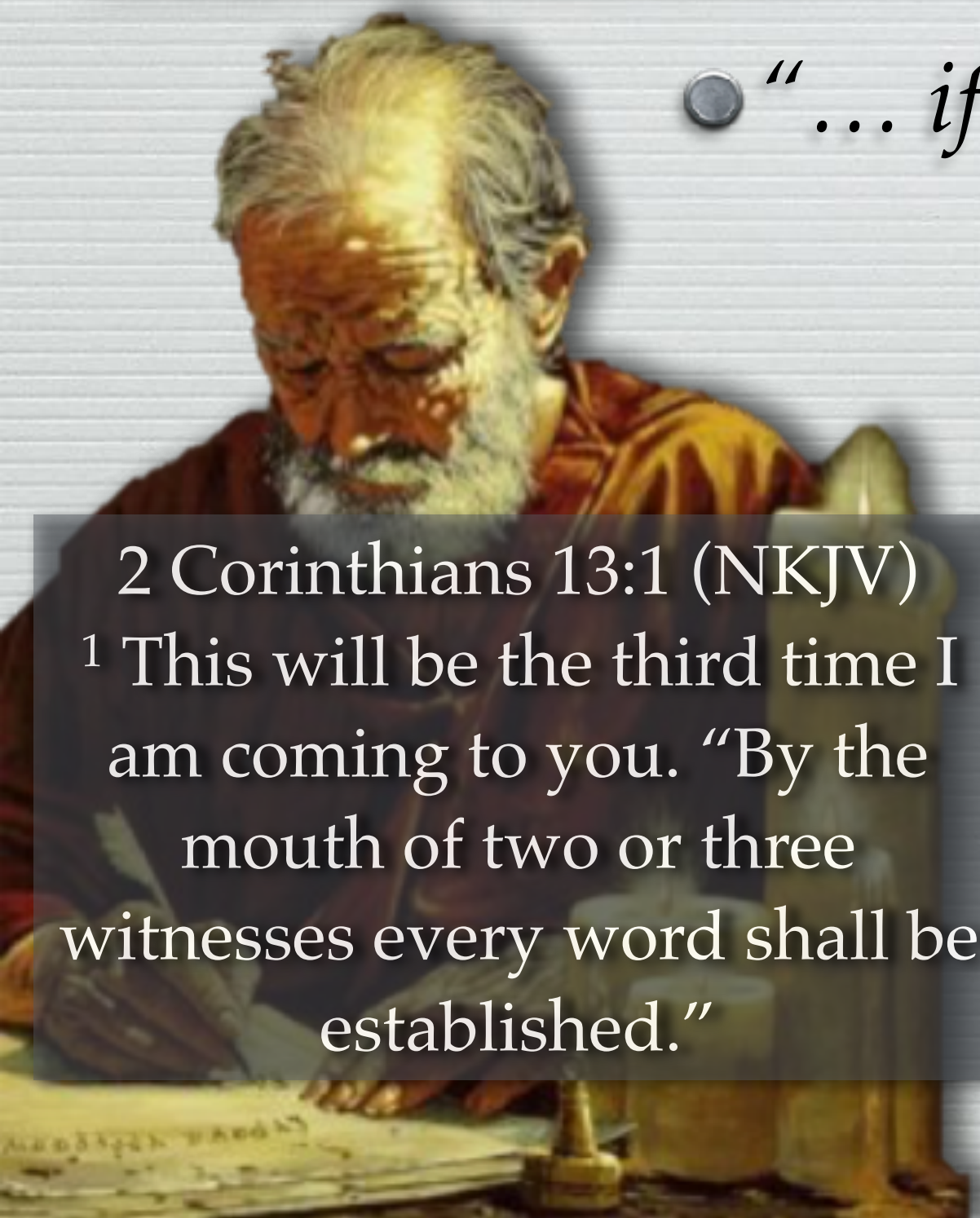
2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-14 (NKJV)

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you. ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

Coming With Authority So Prepare - 13:1-6



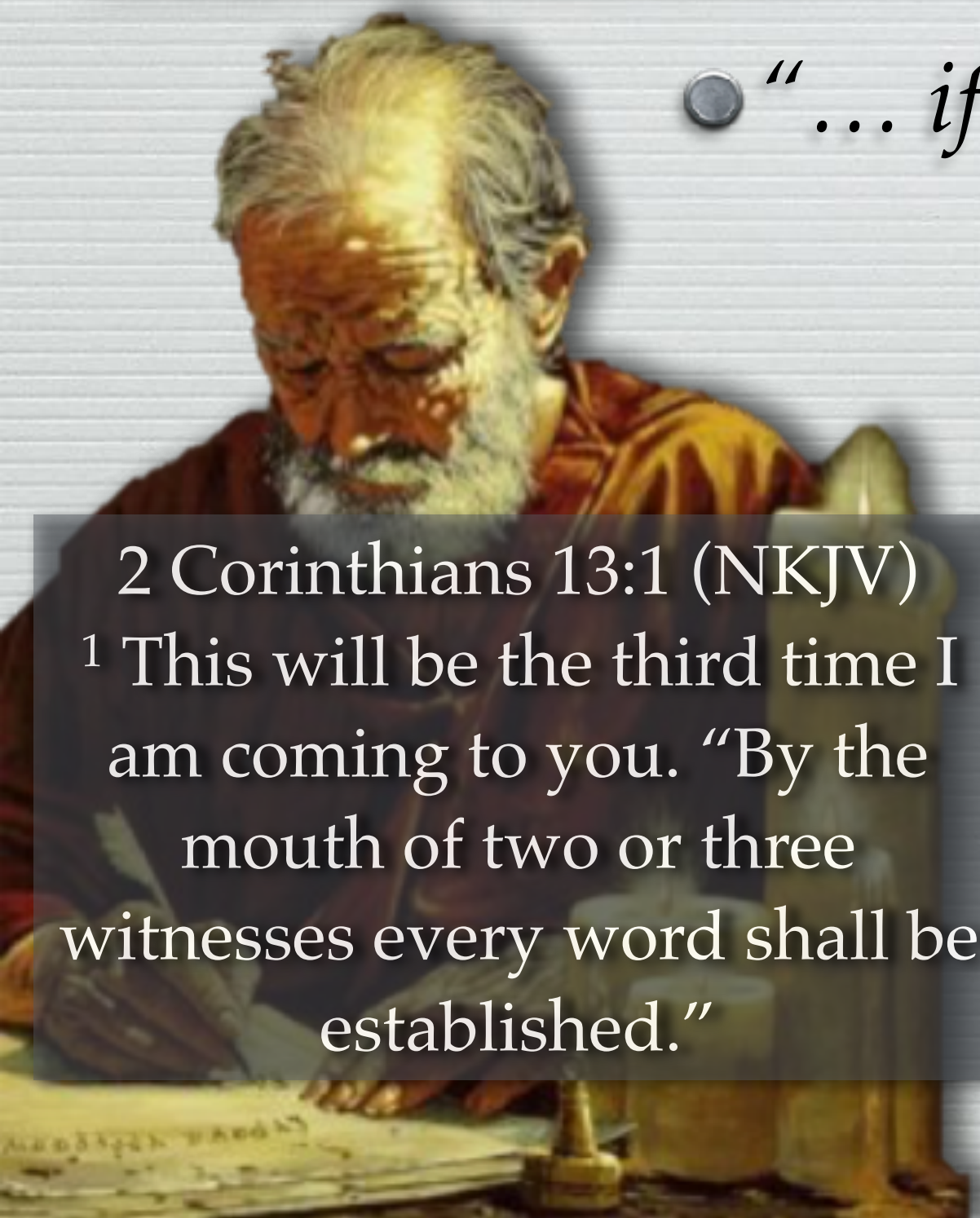
2 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ This will be the third time I am coming to you. “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”

- “... if I come again I will not spare”
- “the third time I am coming to you” - (1) to one actual visit;; [Acts 18] (2) the purposed visit which had been abandoned; and (3) that which he now has in view. - - This view fits best with the known facts, and is in entire accordance both with his language in 2 Cor 12:14, and with his mode of expressing his intentions, as in 1Cor 16:5.

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Coming With Authority So Prepare - 13:1-6



2 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ This will be the third time I am coming to you. “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”

- *“... if I come again I will not spare”*

- **“By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”** - A reference to Deuteronomy 19:15 and applies it, as did Jesus, to the errant brethren (Matt. 18:16).
- Many apply Paul’s words to the “visits,” but it makes more sense to understand them as Paul examining the evidence in a judicious manner.

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Coming With Authority So Prepare - 13:1-6



- *“... if I come again I will not spare”*

- **“I have told you before” -**

- Paul had warned them in person (Acts 18:1-18) and by epistle, (1 Cor. 4:19-21)

- **“... those who have sinned before, and to all the rest,”-**
When Paul came, he would use his apostolic authority to discipline any in the fellowship who required correction.

2 Corinthians 13:2 (NKJV)

² 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—

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Coming With Authority So Prepare - 13:1-6

● *“... if I come again I will not spare”*

2 Corinthians 13:3–4 (NKJV)
³ since you seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. ⁴ 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.

- The proof of his apostolic authority, which they wanted, would be given but in terms they would be wise to avoid (cf. 1 Cor. 5:5).
- What many think of as weak, is actually an exertion of God's strength - (cf. 1 Cor 1:18ff; 15:43)
- Though Paul was weak, Christ was not (cf. 2 Cor. 10:4).

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

Coming With Authority So Prepare - 13:1-6



● *“... if I come again I will not spare”*

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV)
5 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. 6 But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

- **“Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?”**
- They had received the truth from Paul and other evangelists, [Peter, Apollos . . .] - (Acts 18; 1 Cor 1:11,12)
- Not a subjective test - (1 Cor 12:13; ch. 2 Cor 6:16. Jno. 14:23; 15:4; 17:23, 26. Ro. 8:10. Ga. 2:20; 4:19. Ep. 2:20–22; 3:17. Col. 1:27; 2:19. 1 Pe. 2:4, 5)

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Coming With Authority So Prepare - 13:1-6

● "... if I come again I will not spare"

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ 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. ⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:25–27 (NKJV)

And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. ²⁶

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

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Coming With Authority So Prepare - 13:1-6

• "... if I come again I will not spare"

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV)

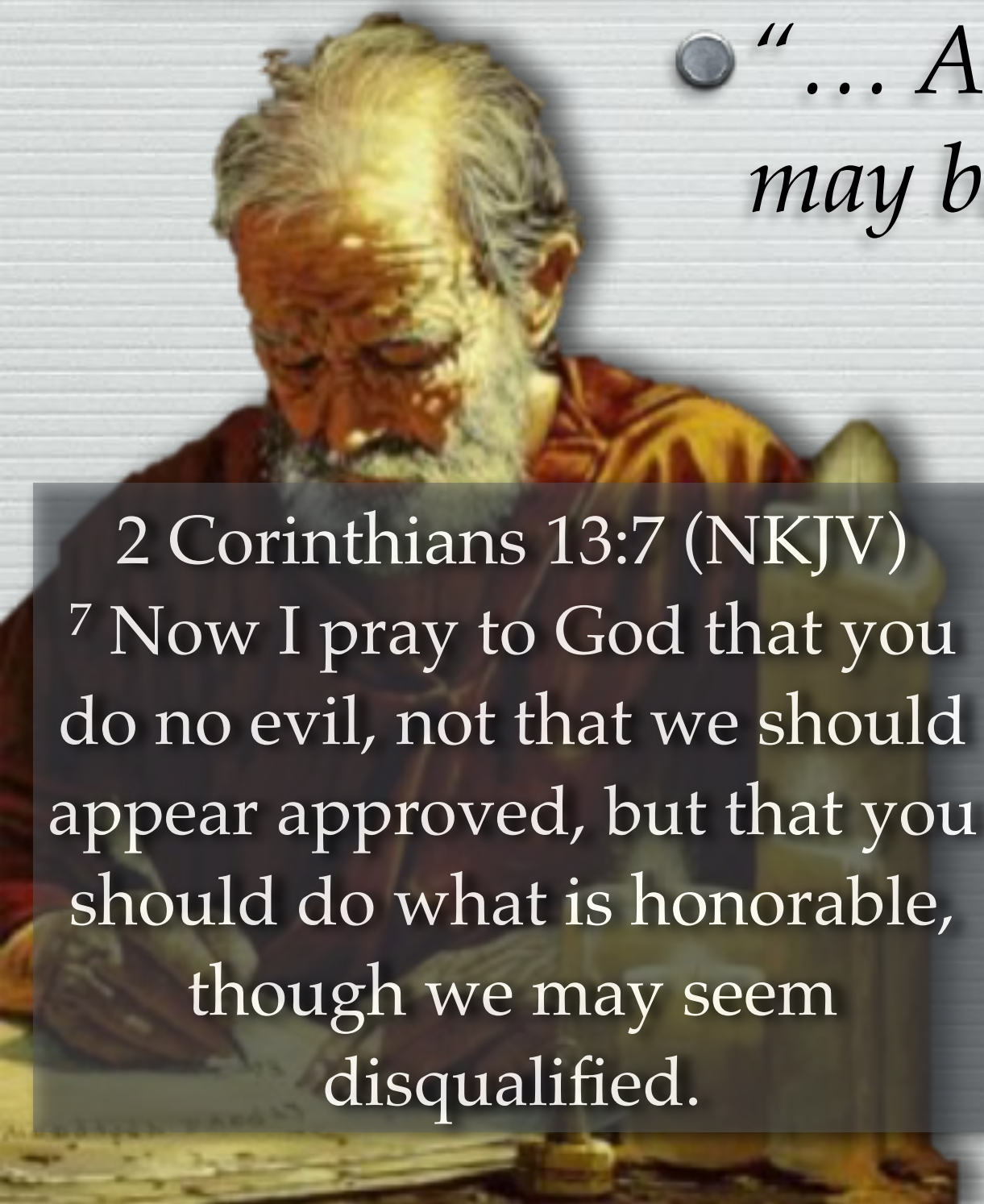
⁵ Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. ⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

• Examine yourselves:

- Motives - (*Love / Faith*)
- Attitude - (*Humility / Meek*)
- Thoughts - (*Holy / Just*)
- Behavior - (*Godly / Influence*)
- Service - (*Obedient / Zealous*)

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

Paul Preferred Gentleness - (13:7-10)



2 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified.

- *“... And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.”*
- The apostle's greatest desire was the obedience and godliness of his readers. (Phi. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9,10)
- This was more important to him than his own vindication, as important as that was - (v. 6; 1 Cor 14:36-38).

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

Paul Preferred Gentleness - (13:7-10)



- *“... And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.”*

2 Corinthians 13:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. ⁹ For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.

- Paul's loyalty to the truth was such that he could not act against it - he could not compromise it - he must teach it and abide by it!
- His concern was the Corinthians and their acceptance & growth in and by the truth.

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

Paul Preferred Gentleness - (13:7-10)



- *“... And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.”*

2 Corinthians 13:10 (NKJV)
¹⁰ Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction.

- As a conclusion to this warning (2 Cor. 12:20–21; 13:5–7), Paul desired he be spared the pain of disciplining those he loved (cf. 2:2)
- Instead he wanted to work with them for their joy (1:24) and for building them up (13:10), NOT their destruction.

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Closing Exhortations & Greetings - 13:11-14

2 Corinthians 13:11-14 (NKJV)

¹¹ Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. ¹³ All the saints greet you. ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

(2 Corinthians 13:1-14)

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THE *Second Letter* OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Paul Encourages Self Examination & Self Discipline

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COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 (NKJV)

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 (NKJV)

¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.