

**INTRODUCTION**

- \* Lord willing, this will be the 17th, and final, message in this series on Paul's second epistle to the church of Corinth. We began studying this epistle in January and, specifically, this last section of Paul's letter at the end of March.
- \* Over the past three weeks we have been considering Paul's defense of his ministry and how that applies to our own ministries.
- \* We have considered Paul's call and his credentials. In those messages, we saw how Paul continually pointed the Corinthians to Christ. A truly called minister of God would seek to glorify God by guiding those in his sphere of influence according to the truth of God. Hence, Paul warned them regarding false ministers who proclaim a false Jesus, have a false spirit, and teach a false gospel. These false ministers seek to enslave believers in legalism, devour their resources, divide the true church, exalt themselves, and intimidate believers into obeying them. The true minister seeks to emulate Christ in his ministry.
- \* Last week, we began considering Paul's final challenge to the Corinthians.: a challenge to test the genuineness of everything according to the standard of God - His truth. Paul addresses this challenge in a two-fold manner: first, to consider his genuineness and, secondly, to consider their own genuineness!

**INSTRUCTION ... Paul Challenges the Corinthians to ...****I. CONSIDER HIS GENUINENESS**

- A. Revealed In His Dedication to Them (12:14; 13:1; Acts 18:1-18; 20:1-3) ...** this will be my third visit
- B. Revealed In His Motivation for Them (12:14-19):** His love for them ... I desire you, not what you can do for me! That is the mind of Christ!
- C. Revealed In His Edification of Them (12:19-21; 13:2,10-11)**
  - \* *parakaleo*: to call alongside for encouragement or exhortation; (cf. Eph 6:4 ... discipline/training involves two aspects: nurture and admonition)
- D. Revealed In His Representation amongst Them (13:2-4) ...** He emulated - as best as he could - the mind and ministry of Christ

**II. CONSIDER THEIR GENUINENESS (13:5-14)****A. Paul's S \_\_\_\_\_**

1. TO T \_\_\_\_\_ ON BEHALF OF C \_\_\_\_\_ (13:5-6)
  - a. Examine Your Belief in Christ (cf. 1 Peter 1:3-9; James 1:1-2,12)
  - b. Test Your Relationship to Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:13; 11:28; 2 Corinthians 10:18)
2. TO G \_\_\_\_\_ ON BEHALF OF T \_\_\_\_\_ (13:7,9,11)
  - a. To P \_\_\_\_\_ Them From What is Evil (κακος) (cf. Romans 7:16-21; 14:20-21; 1 Timothy 6:10-12, 17-19)
  - b. To P \_\_\_\_\_ Them Toward What is Good (καλος)
  - c. To P \_\_\_\_\_ (καταρτιζω) Them In Unity (v. 9,11; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16)
    - \* v. 9; cf. Matt 4:21 & Mark 1:19; Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 10:5; Hebrews 11:3; 1 Peter 5:10
    - \* v. 11 "Become complete" (καταρτιζεσθε - Pres PASS Impv)

**B. Paul's S \_\_\_\_\_ (13:8; John 17:16-21) ... the Truth****INTROSPECTION**

- \* WHAT ABOUT YOU? Are you genuine? What evidence is there in your life?
- \* If you were put on "trial" regarding you faith, would you be found guilty as being a genuine follower of Christ?
- \* Paul stated, "for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."
 

Do you hear His voice? Do you heed His voice?
- \* Is there a need to change the way you think ... and therefore act?

**INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion**

*It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.*

- \* Read 2 Timothy 2:14-3:9 and Hebrews 5:12-6:3. How do these passages apply to the discussion regarding our genuineness of faith?