

Testing One's Faith 2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith."

Intro

In 1 Cor 9:24-27 Paul indicates the possibility of being disqualified in the faith. What might that mean? Many answers have been given. I think that 1 Cor 9:24-27 is related to 2 Cor 13:5-6 with the key word. Qualified- Disqualified

Three Views of 2 Cor. 13:5-6

1. You determine if you are a Christian (saved) by examining works (similar Matt. 7:13ff).
2. You determine if you are acting Christ-like (sanctification) by examining works.
3. If you (Corinthians) wonder if I (Paul) am saved you should wonder if you (Corinthians) are saved since I (Paul) shared the gospel with you.

I. The Context of Audience

Paul is writing to Christians (2 Cor. 1:1, 21-22; 3:23; 6:14; 8:9; 13:11, 14- (Also see the same logic in 1 Corinthians Believers, Saints 1:1-3) Paul has had three interactions with this church and the problems, seem to continue. 2 Cor. 12:14, 13:1

II. The Context of Church

A. The Church was known for (1 Corinthians):

1. Divisions – strife, ch 1:11
2. Immorality-perversion ch 5
3. Lawsuits – envy, ch 6
4. Selfishness- ch 7,8
5. Idolatry- ch 10
6. Drunkenness- ch 11:21, 30

B. Paul affirmed their salvation (1 Cor. 1:2, 3:1; 6:11, 19-20) despite their works and behavior (1 Cor. 3:1-3; 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 12:19-21) Therefore, 2 Cor. 13:5 doesn't seem to indicate a questioning of works to determine salvation. (Nor is this pattern seen in the rest of the New Testament. James 2:14-26?)

C. The Church seemed to doubt Paul's position. 2 Cor 13:3 (Paul's meekness 10:1,10) The new voice of "super apostles" eminent apostles 2 Cor 11:5 12:11, FALSE apostles 11:13.

III. The Concept in the Apostles' Mind "In the faith"

The Corinthians challenged Paul's sanctification, not salvation (13:1-4). Paul challenges the Corinthians to see if they are acting in the faith (sanctification), "Christ in you." Paul asks them to examine their lives of carnality (1 Cor. 3) to see how Jesus is manifested in their lives. Issue of Sanctification not Justification.

It could mean- "Living in the body of "the faith" "the doctrine of the faith". See Jude :3. The issue is how are they or Paul living out their faith in Christ. The Corinthians were not doing well. Paul was running the race. 1 Cor 9:24-27.

IV. The Consequences Considered

A. The Terminology

Are you disqualified? adokimoi- dokimoi

2 Cor. 13:5, 6, 7

1 Cor. 9:27*

1 Cor. 3:15-4:5

2 Cor. 5:9-10

B. The Theology

Christians can live a life that is unapproved by God and become disqualified of reward for being unfaithful. The Corinthians were living such lives and Paul is warning them as he has done for 2 letter if not more (The third time I am writing to you 12:14,13:1) See the warnings in I Cor 3-4, carnality- also 9:24-27, 2 Cor 5:9-10, 13:1-5,:10

Paul will dramatize the warning by way of illustration to Israel in Ch 10

Paul would tie this together in Romans 13:12-14 warning and Bema 14:10

John warns in I Jo 2:28

Peter reminds us. 1 Pt 1:17

Jesus says Matt 16:24ff

Principals for Life

Pastors need to know the people and guide the people. It can be hard and hurtful.

People need to know the word, heed the word Ps 1, 119:10-12 It is profitable 2 Tm 3:16

Doctrine Develops Department

But remember- Eternal Security is Positional. Eternal Significance is Conditional

Two inheritance: All are heir. Faithful ones are Co heirs. Rom 8:17