

EXAMINE, PROVE, KNOW
JANUARY 1, 2017

2 COR. 13:5

INTRODUCTION: The Corinthians were highly critical of Paul. They criticized his age, writing style, speech, bodily appearance, even his apostleship. Paul responded by writing them two letters admonishing them to examine their own lives instead of criticizing others. In the first, he emphasizes performing a solemn self - examination before observing communion, **1 COR. 11:27-31**. In the second, he emphasizes the need to scrutinize themselves to determine their spiritual status.

EXAMINE, PROVE, KNOW – 2 COR. 1:3-5

1. Examine.

A. “Yourself”. MT. 7:1-5

B. Reasons why.

- To determine they are in the faith. There are professing and possessing Christians. We can put a cross in our home, our car and on our desk at work, but is the cross in us? We can believe in gopher wood and the design of the ark from stem to stern, but only those in the boat were saved. Are we truly in Christ?
- Nothing is more important. **MT. 16:24-26** where will we spend our eternal living? Our life is more than food, clothing and the things we possess. We are eternal spirit beings.
- It can be too late! The rich man discovered it was too late for him, so he wanted his brothers warned. **Heb. 9:27** - One can go bankrupt but gain another fortune, but spiritual bankruptcy can't be rectified.
- Many are deceived and mistaken. **PR. 16:25** - Many are lost and are suffering now because they didn't examine what they believe, scientology teaches there is no heaven or hell.

- To remove all doubt. It's better to find out now than to find out when it's too late to do anything about it.

2. Prove yourselves.

A. The Greek word for prove is stronger than the one for examine.

- You can examine a horse by looking at it, but you prove it by taking it home for a week.
- You can examine a ship from stern to stern, but you prove it by taking it out to sea.
- You can examine an axe for workmanship and design, but you prove it by taking it into the woods.

B. What proves our discipleship?

- Love – **1 JOHN 3:14** – God, people, enemies.
- Obedience – **JOHN 14:21**
- Righteousness – **MT. 5:20** – The Scribes went daily into the temple, paid tithes, fasted, and were religious freaks, but inside – **MT. 23:27-28** – Our righteousness far exceeds theirs. **2 COR. 5:21**. Conversion is characterized by righteousness. **1 COR. 6:9-11**
- Fruit bearing – of the Spirit, of our lips, of good works. **TITUS 1:16, 2:14, 3:8**
- Continuing in the Word. **JOHN 8:31**

3. Know – Christ is in us and wants us to live righteous, holy lives. We will know this unless we have a reprobate mind.

A. **ROM. 1:26-28** – The carnal mind is enmity toward God. **ROM. 8:5-8**.

B. **Phil. 3:7-16** – The mind of a true disciple.

CONCLUSION: We all are told to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Through scrutinizing ourselves frequently we can be sure we are living our lives to honor God and promote our own spiritual growth and development.