

PAUL'S SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A CARNAL WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 13:1-8

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

Developing and maintaining your new life in Christ.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Service, Dedication, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

2 Corinthians 13:1-8

The Cults and Religions of Ancient Times

Not only made it a practice to sell icons and trinkets, they made them very user friendly. You tote your gods and deities around your neck or in a sack. Back then, you had to take your gods with you wherever you went if you wanted to have a safe and prosperous journey.

Ancient mariners would attach their god(s) to the bow of their ships so that their god(s) would be watching out for them across the seas, (*Acts 28:11 = the twin sons of Jupiter*).

Growing up – my mom had on the dashboard of her car, a little icon statue of the Madonna, but always facing the wrong direction – she was never looking at the traffic ahead, always at us.

Regardless of the Age and/or Culture, No matter the level of intelligence or development – man seeks out something or someone to worship.

What an amazing reality of the Christian experience

That last time we learned that it was God who desired to walk with man, but that's not all - - there's the reality that God moves inside of man.

Jesus said **the most radical thing** that can be heard,

John 16:7, John 14:16-18

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to **your advantage** that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.... **14:16-18** And I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may **abide with you** forever - **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you** and shall be **in you**. **18** I will not leave you orphans; **I will come to you.**

2 Corinthians 13:1-8

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. **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 - 6** **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**. **7 - 8** 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.

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

1.) Then His power is in you

v. 1-4

1a.) The power to engage

v. 1-2

1-2 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-

Deuteronomy 19:15

“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; *(but rather)* by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

The church at Corinth had compromised itself

with the world and the things that make up this worlds actions.

I write to **those who have sinned** before, and to all the rest, that if I come again I will not spare-

1 Timothy 5:19-20

Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. 20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

Matthew 18:15-17, 20

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector, 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Engaged:

the presence of godly people who are included

in a sensitive church issue protects all involved, *(just make sure that those involved are truly “needing” to be involved).*

Never take an issue and enlarge it beyond its **NTKB**

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

Then His power is in you

1b.) The power to convince

v. 3-4a

3-4a 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.**

3 Paul is saying this;

“Don’t be fooled in judging things by human understanding. Jesus looked defeated and beaten at the cross. He looked like he had utterly lost, but the reality was and is – he was in total control of all that was happening.

John 10:17-18

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Let’s just cut to the chase here.

There is nothing like the Bible in all the world. There is no other (1) historically accurate, (2) scientifically consistent, (3) culturally relevant, (4) archeologically dependable, and (5) humanly beneficial truth than the Bible...

But All of That is True - Only Because....

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek

4a For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God.

The Resurrection is the All in All of Christianity, of God Himself toward Us.

Jesus Christ Rose From the Dead - Beat That!!!

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

Then His power is in you

1c.) The power to endure

v. 4b

4b For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

How Can You - Beat That!!!

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

2.) Then His faith is in you

v. 5-6

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.

This is Almost Funny.

The Corinthian's are Doubting Paul's Apostleship, yet He was the one who had witnessed to them, prayed with them to accept Christ, and disciplined them - now they suggest that he is not for real - Paul counters by saying, you had better examine yourselves to see if you are saved.

His "Call" to Faith.

Jude 3

That faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

These are Strong and Direct Words

And with them comes both a rebuke and an exhortation.

*You haven't been shy in the least about examining me as an Apostle,
I now challenge you – the time has come for you to examine yourselves!*

To not pause to consider if your faith is true or not is a dangerous thing,
(we must be very careful to not assume we have what Jesus offers because we have read about it). **To know about salvation doesn't mean you possess it.**

Over here in **Pasadena at JPL**, there are scientists
who can tell you all about mars **but they have never experienced Mars.**

To say that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and that the Bible is true doesn't mean that those truths are **The Active Faith that defines your life.**

Galatians 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Colossians 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: **which is Christ IN you**, the hope of glory.

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU? Then His faith is in you

2a.) **Real faith is experiential**

v. 5a

5a **Examine** yourselves as to whether you are **in the faith**

This is the Believer's Reality,

God knows all about us. He knows what is true and false about us.

Examine

πειράζω peirazo, *pi-rad'-zo*; to apply the acid test, to assay, the desire to endeavor, to scrutinize, to go about, to look up one side and down the other = to confirm its reality.

This was the heart-felt cry of the Psalmist - David

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, (*he invites God in*) and know my heart (*look into me*); Try me, (*I am asking you to discover and uncover me*) and know my anxieties; (*where I do not trust you*) 24 And see if there is any wicked way (*unpleasing tolerances*) in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Dear Friends, I cannot tell you enough just how much I appreciate this verse and here's some reasons why?

The verse makes a grand assumption that;

1. You can - know that you're saved and going to heaven.
2. You can - at anytime check your spiritual progress.
3. You can - make any correction necessary as needed.

Can you say this morning that you have the

“Witness of the Holy Spirit in Your Life”
(His testimony, His Lordship, His discipleship is REAL in You)

I must ask myself & The Lord Jesus, Am I **in the faith?**
5 as to whether you are **in the faith**
It's a Proof that is confirmed in the heart.

Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

It's a Proof that is confirmed in our will.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit Himself **bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God,

It's a Proof that is confirmed by our lives

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe **in the name** of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe **in the name** of the Son of God.

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?
Then His faith is in you

2b.) Real faith is transformative

v. 5b

5b Test yourselves.

Test δοκιμάζω **dokimazo**, *dok-im-ad'-zo*; to expose or to allow yourself to be reviewed. To be inspected. To present yourself for

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

This is a Wonderful Truth.

#1 - At the moment of conversion - a man's **position** is forever changed.

#2 - At the moment of conversion - a man's **faith** begins its journey.

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?
Then His faith is in you

2c.) Real faith is quantitative

v. 5c-6

5c-6 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**.

Know (yourself) ἐπιγινώσκω **epiginosko**, *ep-ig-in-ocē'-ko*; to confirm or to look upon some mark, a recognizable moment or knowledge of a willful act.

To “quantitatively” know

Is to count up, to look upon the “marks” of victory.

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

3.) Then His work is in you

v. 7-8

3a.) His work is at work to liberate

v. 7a

Now I pray to God that you **do no evil**, not that we should appear **approved**,

This whole challenge to self-examination is our own safety net against self-deception.

“Now I pray to God that you **do no evil**”

Let's stop playing games here – you know what the right thing to do is, So do it.

This, “not that we should appear **approved**,”

Obey God now, from the heart, without me having to “command” you to.

3b.) His work is at work to empower

v. 7b

but that you should **do what is honorable**, though we may seem disqualified.

IS JESUS CHRIST IN YOU?

Then His work Is In You

3c.) His work is at work to persuade

v. 8

For we can do nothing **against** the truth, but **for** the truth.

For we can do nothing against the truth

A man's unbelief, going against the truth doesn't change the fact that the truth is the truth. Truth never changes.

Truth is one of those witnesses of heaven.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ, The Call** <<<<

End of Study

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