

Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself

Paul's Consistent Concern for the Corinthian Church

2nd Corinthians 11:2 – 3

2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

- His concern has never been their salvation by Christ,
 - But for their faithfulness to Christ.

Verse 5 - 6: Compare this Sarcasm to Similar Statements Before

1st Corinthians 15:1 – 2, 14, 58

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,

2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

- Just as by the resurrection, we find that our faith and our labors for Christ are not in vain.
 - Therefore, we should never lose heart or associate with those who deny it.
- So, we should test ourselves and find that Christ is in us, so we do not fail to meet the test.
 - Therefore, we should repent and be meek to godly reproof.

2nd Corinthians 2:9 For this is why I wrote, that I might test(*dokimē*) you and know whether you are obedient in everything.

- In **chapter 13, verse 3**, Paul indicated that some of the Corinthians were seeking proof (*dokimen*) that Christ was speaking in Paul.
 - So now, in **verse 5**, Paul turns the tables on them and challenges them to prove (*dokimazō*) themselves.

#1 Salvation is not Cheap – So let's Never be Unclear with Anyone

- The gospel message is one of repentance, and it is a miracle when someone is born again.

#2 Salvation is Non-Refundable – So let's Never Give up on Anyone

- Never think that what you didn't earn by your righteousness, you can lose by your sin.

Verses 7 - 10: Modeling True Heart and Dedication in Ministry

"...restoration is what we pray for"

Restoration(*katartisis*): to put something back that has been broken

Used secularly of repairing city walls, mending nets, or resetting broken bones

- More important to him than his own vindication, was their restoration – and so he prayed!



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Verse 11: Realities that Paul lives, and He Exhorts Them to Follow In

- Here, Paul models what he just told them in **verse 10**:
 - *“the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.”*

Five imperatives(commands), all in the present tense to build them up:

1. Rejoice
 2. Restore (*katartizō*, noun form of the verb in **verse 9** – this is what he prays for them)
 3. Comfort (*parakaleō*, 18th and final usage)
 4. Agree (literally, “think the same thing”)
 5. Live in Peace
- And God be with you (Relationship and grace empowerment)

Verses 12 – 13: Closing Greetings

J.B. Phillips Paraphrase

12 A handshake all round, please!

Verse 14: For a Last Word, a Blessing

Encouraging Biblical evidence that Paul’s visit with the Corinthians after this epistle was pleasant:

- Paul wrote Romans during the three months he was in Corinth (**Acts 20:2-3**).
 - Giving no indications that there were further problems in Corinth.
- Instead, in **Romans**, he speaks of plans to evangelize unreached areas (Spain in particular, **Romans 15:28**), just as he had also expressed in **2nd Corinthians 10:14 – 16**
 - He likely would not have been free to do this if the Corinthian church still needed his further pastoral attention.
- Furthermore, Paul wrote that the Corinthians “were pleased” to complete their collection for the Jerusalem saints (**Romans 15:26-27**).
 - It seems that this problem child church “passed the test” and proved to be “obedient in everything.” (**2nd Corinthians 2:9**)

