

2 Corinthians 13:5-Must We Examine Ourselves to See if We are Saved?



By Dr. Andy Woods

Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?
(2 Cor. 13:5; NASB)

“But my point is that so long as a professing Christian is in the state of carnality, no pastor, no Christian friend, has the slightest ground for holding that this carnal person has ever been regenerated...it is a pastor’s duty to counsel such a person. “You do not give evidence of being in a regenerate state. You must remember Paul’s warning, ‘Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? You are not reprobate, are you?’ (2 Corinthians 13:5).”

James Oliver Buswell, *A Systematic Theology of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols., vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1962), 147.

“Doubts about one’s salvation are not wrong...Scripture encourages self-examination...In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul wrote, ‘Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?’ That admonition is largely ignored—and often explained away—in the contemporary church.”

John F. MacArthur, *The Gospel According to Jesus: What Does Jesus Mean When He Says, "Follow Me"?* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988), 190.

Three Tenses of Salvation

| Phase | Justification | Sanctification | Glorification |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Tense | Past | Present | Future |
| Saved from sin's: | Penalty | Power | Presence |
| Scripture | Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5 | Philip 2:12 | Rom 5:10 |

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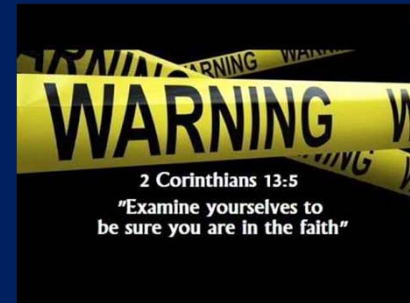
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9 Reasons Favoring the Progressive Sanctification View

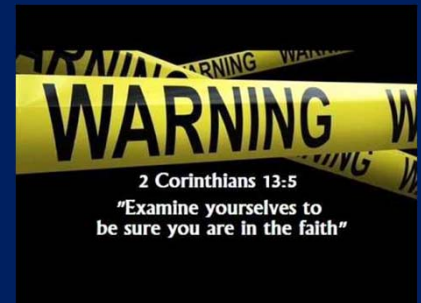
- I. The Corinthians' Assumed Believing Status
- II. Proving Oneself Applies to the Believer
- III. Disqualification Applies to the Believer
- IV. In the Faith Refers to Experience Rather than Position
- V. Christ in You Relates to Progressive Sanctification



9 Reasons Favoring the Progressive Sanctification View

VI. Reform View Destroys the Passage's Symmetry

VII. Only Believers Experience Discipline



VIII. Scripture Nowhere Tells Believers to Test the Authenticity of Their Faith

IX. The Reformed View Damages Assurance of Salvation

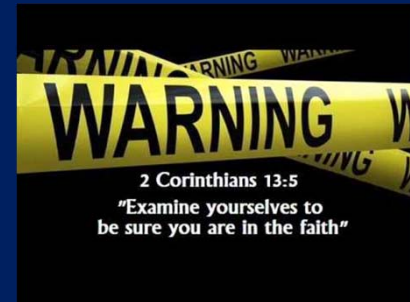


<http://boldgrace.org/article/152/21-Tough-Questions-Pre-Order>

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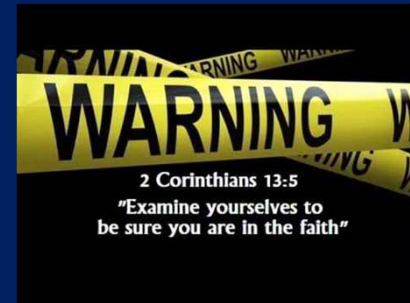
Regrettably...these forceful words have been sadly misconstrued. They have been read by some interpreters as though they were a challenge to the Corinthians to find out whether they were really saved or not! This is unthinkable. After twelve chapters in which Paul takes their Christianity for granted, can he only now be asking them to make sure they are born again?...Let the readers of this book examine 2 Corinthians on their own. They will see clearly how often the apostle affirms in one way or another his conviction that his readers are genuinely Christian.

Zane C. Hodges, *Absolutely Free! A Biblical Reply to Lordship Salvation* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989), 200.

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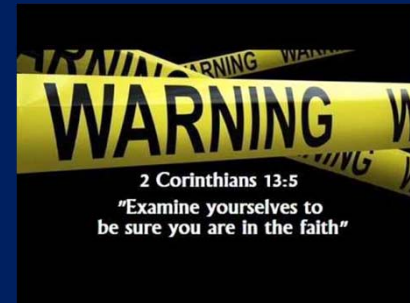
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if *adokimos* or disqualified here means that "...the apostle Paul was not certain that he would go to heaven...one wonders...how any Christian in the history of the church could ever know for certain that God was his Father!"

Joseph Dillow, *Final Destiny: The Future Reign of the Servant Kings* (Monument, CO: Panyim, 2012), 449.

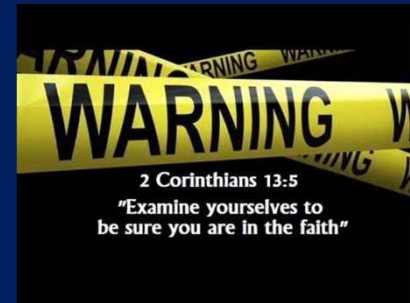
Scripture's Five Crowns

(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

| <u>Scripture</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Purpose</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Cor 9:24-27 | Incorruptible crown | Gaining mastery over the old man |
| 1 Thess 2:19-20 | Crown of rejoicing | Soul winning |
| Jas 1:12; Rev 2:10 | Crown of life | Enduring trials |
| 1 Pet 5:2-4 | Crown of glory | Shepherding God's people |
| 2 Tim 4:8 | Crown of righteousness | Longing for His appearing |

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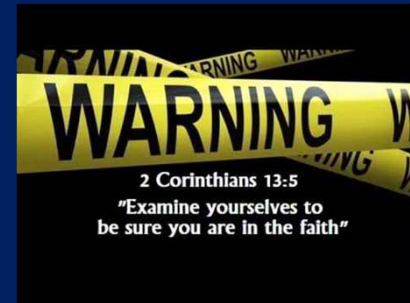


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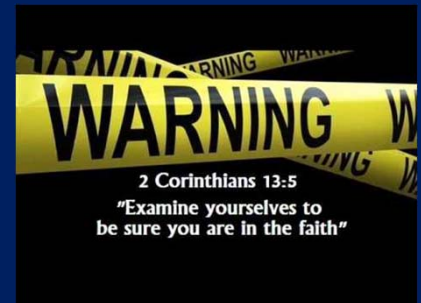
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Since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. (2 Cor. 13:3; NASB)

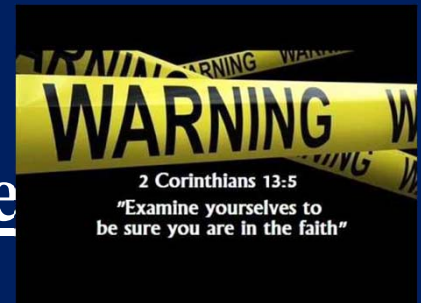
6-But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test. 7-Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved. (2 Cor. 13:6-7; NASB)

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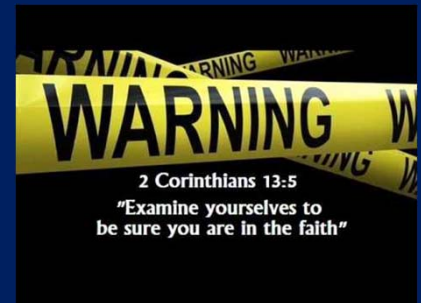
“Nowhere in the Bible is a Christian asked to examine either his faith or his life to find out if he is a Christian. He is told only to look outside of himself to Christ alone for his assurance that he is a Christian. The Christian is, however, often told to examine his *walk of faith* and life to see if he is walking in fellowship and in conformity to God's commands.”

Joseph Dillow, *Final Destiny: The Future Reign of the Servant Kings* (Monument, CO: Panyim, 2012), 454.

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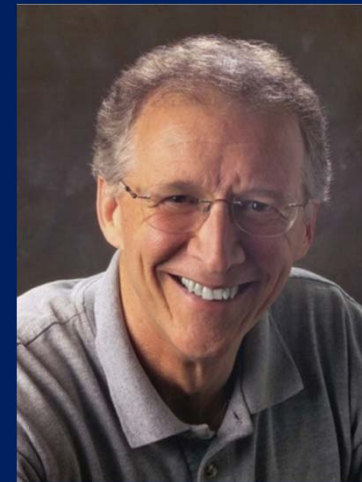
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“No Christian can be sure that he is a true believer. Hence, there is an ongoing need to be dedicated to the Lord and to deny ourselves so that we might make it.”

John Piper and Pastoral Staff, *TULIP: What We Believe about the Five Points of Calvinism: Position Paper of the Pastoral Staff* (Desiring God Ministries, 1997), 25, cited in Hunt, 379.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

John 5:24 (NASB)

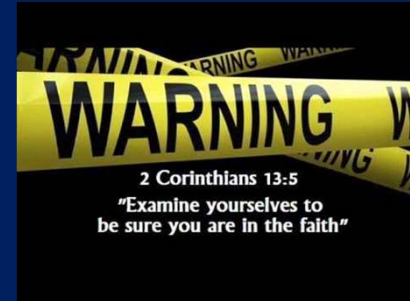
Article XI—Assurance

We believe it is the privilege, not only of some, but of all by the Spirit through faith who are born again in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, to be assured of their salvation from the very day they take Him to be their Savior and that this assurance is not founded upon any fancied discovery of their own worthiness or fitness, but wholly upon the testimony of God in His written Word, exciting within His children filial love...

Conclusion

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