

THE TIME FOR TESTING HAS FINALLY COME
II COR. 13:1-6

Introduction:

- A. Paul intends to come to the church at Corinth.
 - 1. 12:14, "Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you."
 - 2. v20,21, "When I come again."
 - 3. 13:1, "This is the third time I am coming to you."

- B. Paul has restrained himself from punishing those who would defy his ministry.
 - 1. v10.
 - 2. He would not restrain himself, if they did not repent.

I. WHEN HE CAME HE WOULD CONDUCT AN EXAMINATION. V1

- A. "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."
 - 1. Deut. 17:6,7.
 - 2. Deut. 17:15.
 - 3. Matt. 18:16.
 - 4. I Tim. 5:19, "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."

- B. Paul intended to conduct a fair investigation.
 - 1. established = histemi - to stand as opposed to falling.
 - 2. In the judgment of God, therefore, it is better that many offenders should go unpunished through lack of testimony, than that the security of reputation and life should be endangered by allowing a single witness to establish a charge against any man.
 - 3. Gossip pre-empts this principle and allows one individual to charge, try, and convict others.

II. HE WILL APPLY JUSTICE AND NOT MERCY. V2

- A. Paul has warned them.
 - 1. "I told you before and foretell you."
 - 2. foretell = parolego - to tell before the event!

- B. "I will not spare."
 - 1. spare = pheidomai - to abstain from doing anything.
 - 2. The abuse, accusations, the ridicule, must stop.

III. HE WOULD PROVIDE PHYSICAL PROOF OF CHRIST SPEAKING IN HIM
V3,4

- A. They doubted Paul's words. v3
 - 1. proof = dokime - approved integrity, proved true.
 - 2. We may not like God's proof of His displeasure.

- B. They thought his weakness proved him false. v4
 - 1. Jesus was weak in crucifixion but was resurrected in or by power.
 - 2. Paul was first among them in weakness but he would return in power.

IV. THEY SHOULD EXAMINE THEMSELVES. V5,6

- A. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith."
 - 1. examine = peirazo - to make trial, to put to the test.
 - 2. faith = pistis = firm persuasion, conviction.

- B. "prove your own selves."
 - 1. prove = dokimazo - to prove by test, to assay, to make trial.

- C. Paul had been on trial. They had judged every aspect of him and his ministry.
 - 1. They should see if they have faith.
 - 2. They should see if they have proof of God's blessing and power.

V. SELF EXAMINATION MIGHT PROVE THEM TO BE REPROBATES. V5b

- A. Any saved person has Christ in them.
 - 1. "know ye not your own selves, how that Christ is in you."
 - 2. "except ye be reprobates."
 - 3. reprobates = adokimos - unapproved, that which will not stand the test.

- B. Paul was not a reprobate. v6
 - 1. "But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates."
 - 2. They would know when he came and demonstrated apostolic power that he was not reprobate.

VI. THE FINAL EXAMINATION.

- A. Rom. 14:11-13.
 - 1. This is the time of truth.

- B. We will not be subject to Apostolic judgment.
 - 1. Today we are judged by the Book.