

APPROVAL THAT IS REAL

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

- A. Paul's earlier letter to the Corinthians.
 - B. To evade the charges made by Paul - They wanted to use another pattern of judgment.
 - C. Rather than being judged by Paul's word (God's Word) they chose to judge themselves by their own rules.
 - D. **Anyone who judges himself by his own rules will always pass!**
 - E. Paul writes this part of the letter (chapter ten) to remind them (and us) that it is God's judgment that counts.
-

...BY THEMSELVES

- A. v.12 "For we are not bold to number or compared ourselves with certain of them that commend themselves: but they themselves, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding."
 - B. Set themselves up as the standard.
 - 1. Decided what was and was not approved.
 - 2. Using themselves as the correct standard they had to pass.
 - C. THEY IN THEIR WISDOM DETERMINED WHAT WAS right or wrong.
 - 1. What they wanted to do....was right.
 - 2. What they didn't like was **wrong.**
 - D. Men fortify themselves against the gospel with their intellect and Will..
 - 1. They argue....reason from their pride. Can determine for self.
 - 2. Self-sufficiency....Self-righteous.
 - E. It is **humbling** to accept the implications of the knowledge of God as revealed in the Gospel.
 - 1. God knows my need....Better than I
 - 2. Gospel....God has provided for me that which I never could do.
-

Compared With Others

- A. Always a great danger in comparing ourselves with others.
 - 1. Can always find someone worse than ourselves.
 - 2. How many people stay away from religion, because they know/or have heard of some proclaimed religious person who is worse than they.
- B. God will not use comparative judgment. Each will be judged according to deeds done in this life....whether they be good or bad.
 - 1. You will have to give an account to God for your life.

APPROVAL THAT IS REAL

Page 2

2. *****NOTICE:** Did you ever hear of someone staying away, because there was someone going to church that was **BETTER** THAN THEY?
 3. How many times do we pass judgment upon them because they are more religious, better...etc.
-

JUDGING OTHERS

- A. WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR JUDGING OTHERS.
 1. "If it were me....I would have...."
 2. Every time we judge others by ourselvesWe Lose (They lose)
 - B. Some in Corinth had passed judgment on Paul.
 1. Were wrong in every judgment.
 2. **vs. 1 & 2. READ**
 3. What he would do if he had to.
 4. Paul's Power was from God...vs. 4, 5
-

SELF APPROVED

- A. Many examples of those who were totally approved of By Themselves. We will look at two.
 1. **Haman:** Read Esther 6:6.
 - a. Tell the story of Haman, Mordecai and the Jews.
 - b. What led Haman to this final and fatal judgment of himself?
 - c. Who was rewarded..?
 - d. What finally happened to Haman.
 2. **Church at Laodicea:** (Rev. 3:16-18).
 - a. Their self judgment was: "I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing."
 - b. God's Judgment: "Thou art the wretched one miserable and poor and blind and naked"
 - B. MEN TODAY:
 1. One way is as good as another...
 2. I feel it right here...heart.
 3. It doesn't make any difference...as long as..
 4. Man today feels very confident in making his own rules, and judgments.
-

APPROVAL THAT IS REAL

Page 3

Of Whom Does God Approve

- A. V. 18; “For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.”
1. Our desire should be to be approved by God.
 2. “Thus sayeth the Lord.
- B. WHAT IS THE BASIS ON WHICH GOD JUDGES MAN?
1. We are judged by His Word. John 12:48.
 2. God doesn't see as does man. God looks at the heart. (Samuel and David.)
 - a. Who did Samuel pick.
 - b. Who was approved of by God?
- C. WHO IS COMMENDED BY GOD?
1. One who hears and obeys His Word.
 2. One who is His child...A Christian.
 3. How does one become a Christian.
 4. One who lives the Christian life.
- D. GOD HAS GIVEN THE STANDARD BY WHICH MAN WILL BE APPROVED.
1. It is the Gospel.
 2. God approved all (and only) those who obey the Gospel.
 3. **ARE YOU APPROVED BY THE LORD TODAY?**
-