

APPROVAL THAT IS REAL

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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.
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...BY THEMSELVES

- A. v.12 "For we are not bold to number or compare 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.
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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.

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

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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?
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