

Prove All Things

Introduction

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.
(KJV - **Prove** all things)

1. Prove - Dokimazo: to try, to test, to prove, approve, after having tested and tried, to show to be acceptable.

A. Other uses of the same word:

1) "test the spirits"

1 John 4:1

2) "not pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts."

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

3) "that you may approve the things that are excellent."

Philippians 1:9-10 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

2. Proof - which we ought to show!

Prove Ourselves - Whether We Be in the Faith

1. We are to examine ourselves and prove ourselves.

2 Corinthians 13:5

A. As we prove ourselves through the scriptures we can then prove another point - the Lord's commandments!

1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone **thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual**, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

2. We must compare our life and the doctrine we teach and live by the scriptures!

A. This even applies in partaking of the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

1) This would mean not distinguishing what these emblems represent - we must examine our self.

3. Those that teach and practice error serve their own purpose.

1 Corinthians 11:19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are **approved may be recognized among you**.

Luke 17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him **through whom they do come!**"

2 Corinthians 10:18 For not **he who commends himself** is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

Prove the Sincerity of Our Love

1. We talk a lot about our love - but do we actually prove it?

A. Our love needs to be tested. (That occurs every minute of our lives)

2 Corinthians 8:8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

2 Corinthians 8:24 Therefore show to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf.

B. Love behaves in a certain way.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

C. Our love will be manifest in action.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

We Must Prove the Good and Perfect Will of God

1. Prove God's will by living by it.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

A. We show it to be approved by being different from the world.

Ephesians 5:8-10

Let Every Man Prove His Own Work

1. There is cause for rejoicing when our works have been proved.

Galatians 6:4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing **in himself alone**, and not in another.

A. This proving is done by measuring ourselves by Christ's words and examples rather than by others!

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, **measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.**

We Must Be Proved to Be Acceptable

1. To God and Men.

Romans 14:16-18

A. The children of Israel tried God and saw His works.

Hebrews 3:9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

B. Paul wrote to prove (to test) the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 2:9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

C. Some do not prove "that which is good and acceptable and perfect" but instead they do "not see fit to acknowledge God any longer". (Romans 12:2; 1:28)

Conclusion

1. How will we stand the test when we are tried?

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

2. Are we REALLY showing ourselves to be proving our Christianity by our every action?

Invitation

Place _____

Date _____

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