

FINAL WARNINGS!

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2 Corinthians 13:1-3a — This will be my third visit to you. “Every matter must be established by testimony of two or three witnesses.” I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me.

Four helpful warnings . . .

I. Serve

2 Corinthians 13:3-4 — Since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For to be sure, He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by God’s power. Likewise, we are weak in Him, yet by God’s power we will live with Him to serve you.

II. Test yourselves

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 — Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you — unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 — They tell how you **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God**, and to **wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

III. Stand for truth

2 Corinthians 13:7-8 — Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

“I believe that in the end the truth will conquer.” — John Wycliffe

IV. Be made complete

2 Corinthians 13:9-10 (NASB) — For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be made complete. For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I *need* not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.

2 Corinthians 12:19 — Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.

2 Corinthians 13:11-14 — Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

“For a Christian is one who seeks and enjoys the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost.” — Charles Hodge