

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

2-2-14 Ken Carlton

Title: DIAGNOSTIC IMPERATIVE

Main Text: II Cor 13:5-7 6:3-10

Sermon Description: II Corinthians 13:5-7.... Paul's instructions for testing oneself ought to serve as smelling salts in the nose of modern apathy and unqualified security in the church. Let us examine the rigorous standards of fealty to Christ the apostle has in mind when he closes his exhortation to this fledgling church with a command for spiritual introspection. It would serve believers well at any juncture to heed this diagnostic imperative!

Note of Context: The most troubling thing to Paul in this whole ordeal of the Corinthian church questioning his legitimacy as an apostle is not what was said about him as much as what the questioning revealed about the church (I Cor 2:2)

HEADING: SPIRITUAL DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED BY PREPOSITION...

1. 'BY' INDICATES...SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF FAITH (II Cor 6:4-7)

-By great endurance, By purity, By knowledge, By patience, By kindness, By the Holy Spirit, By genuine love, By truthful speech, By the power of God
(Note: The Spirit and His fruit and influence through our actions)

2. 'IN' INDICATES...STEADFASTNESS UNDER TRYING CONDITIONS (II Cor 6:4-5)

-In every way, In afflictions, In hardships, In calamities, In beatings, In imprisonments, In riots, In labors, In sleepless nights, In hunger
(Note: This list represents the scope of 'Endurance')

3. 'WITH' INDICATES...SYSTEMIC APPLICATION OF MEANS (II Cor 6:7)

-Weapons of righteousness for right and left hand (Gen 23:14-16 Abraham, and weights current with merchants as a Word application example)

4. 'THROUGH' INDICATES...STRINGENCY INSPITE OF APPARENT INFLUENCE (II Cor 6:8)

- Through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise

5. 'AS' 'YET' INDICATES...STANDPOINT UNPHASED THOUGH MISUNDERSTOOD (II Cor 8-10)

- As imposters, yet are true, As unknown and yet well known, As dying and behold we live....

COMMUNION: “What is a sacrament? An outward attestation of the grace of God which, by a visible sign, represents spiritual things to imprint the promises of God more firmly in our hearts, and to make us more sure of them.” -John Calvin

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: Testing faith	Theme: Substance of faith	Theme: steadfastness	Theme: Weapons of righteousness	Theme: Stringency	Theme: Standpoint
Verses: II Cor 13:5-7	Verses: II Cor 6: 4-7	Verses: II Cor 6: 4-5	Verses: Eph 6: 12-17	Verses: II Cor 5:11-15	Verses: II Cor 6:8-13

