



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

Sunday Morning Message for December 3, 2017 by Ray Reynolds

Saints Can Find Hope In Examination (II Corinthians 13)

Introduction: The church in Corinth had many problems. I & II Corinthians are only part of Paul's correspondence to this church family. The second letter reveals that the first letter was received with love and acceptance. The "saints" of God in Corinth realized that not all hope was lost. In this second letter, we can see several things that gave the church hope. This final chapter is about finding hope in examination. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Examine Your Foresight (vs.1-4)

- We need to be ready for salvation (**Mark 16:16**).
- We need to be ready for Christ's return (**Luke 12:35-40**).
- We need to be ready for judgment (**Hebrews 9:27-28**).
- We need to be ready to defend our faith (**I Peter 3:15**).

II. Examine Your Faith (vs.5-10)

- Substantial faith comes in small amounts (**Luke 17:6**).
- Saving faith comes in Jesus Christ (**Romans 3:28, 5:1**).
- Sound faith comes from the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**).
- Strong faith comes from unity (**Ephesians 4:5**).

III. Examine Your Fellowship (vs.7-14)

- Christians should be complete (v.11, **I Corinthians 1:10**).
- Christians should be comforted (v.11, **II Corinthians 1:3-4**).
- Christians should be considerate (vs.12-13, **I Corinthians 10:24**).
- Christians should be in communion (v.14, **I Corinthians 11:26**).

Conclusion: We need to examine ourselves and treat people as we want to be treated (**Matthew 7:12**). **II Corinthians 13:11** says, "Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you." What a great passage! If you want hope, look to these verses. Have you accepted Christ and confessed Him as your Lord? Have you submitted to Him in baptism? Are you ready to be filled with hope? Are you telling others the good news? Will you share hope with others who need it?