

# Divine Approval or Rejection

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## Introduction

In this lesson, we consider the concept of divine approval or rejection. Accordingly, let us examine all occurrences of the Greek adjective *dokimos* [1384], along with its various derivatives: the verb *dokimazō* [1381a], the nouns *dokimasia* [1381b], *dokimē* [1382], and *dokimion* [1383], and also the negative noun, *adokimos* [96b].

The root adjective describes that which is “tested” or “approved.” It pertains (1) to being genuine on the basis of testing, (2) to being considered worthy of high regard, or (3) to being valuable [1384].

The Greek verb means “to test, by implication, to approve.” It means “(1) to make a critical examination of something to determine genuineness; (2) to draw a conclusion about worth on the basis of testing, *prove*, *approve*, here the focus is on the result of a procedure or examination [1381a].

The nouns identify “a testing, a proving.” The first refers to “an examination for genuineness” [1381b]. The second refers to “(1) a testing process; (2) the experience of going through a test with special reference to the result” [1382]. The third refers to “(1) the process or means of determining the genuineness of something; (2) genuineness as result of a test” [1383].

## ***The Root Adjective***

Thomas defines the root adjective δόκιμος [dokimos] as from dechomai [to receive], meaning “tested, approved” [1384].

BDAG say δόκιμος, ον “(1) pertains to being genuine on the basis of testing, approved (by test), tried and true, genuine; (2) pertains to being considered worthy of high regard, respected, esteemed; (3) pertains to being valuable, precious.”

This word occurs 7x in the NT (Rom. 14:18; 16:10; 1 Cor. 11:19; 2 Cor. 10:18; 13:7; 2 Tim. 2:15; James 1:12).

*Romans 14:18 ... 18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and \*approved by men. (NASB95)*

*Romans 16:10 ... 10 Greet Apelles, the \*approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 11:19 ... 19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are **\*approved** may become evident among you. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 10:18 ... 18 For it is not he who commends himself that is **\*approved**, but he whom the Lord commends. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 13:7 ... 7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear **\*approved**, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear unapproved. (NASB95)*

*2 Timothy 2:15 ... 15 Be diligent to present yourself **\*approved** to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (NASB95)*

*James 1:12 ... 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been **\*approved**, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (NASB95)*

### **The Verb Dokimazō**

Thomas defines the verb δοκιμάζω [dokimazō] as from dokimos [1384], meaning “to test, by implication, to approve” [1381a].

BDAG say δοκιμάζω means “(1) to make a critical examination of something to determine genuineness, put to the test, examine; (2) to draw a conclusion about worth on the basis of testing, prove, approve, here the focus is on the result of a procedure or examination; (a) prove by testing, of gold; (b) accept as proved, approve.”

This word occurs 22x in the NT (Luke 12:56 [2x]; 14:19; Rom. 1:28; 2:18; 12:2; 14:22; 1 Cor. 3:13; 11:28; 16:3; 2 Cor. 8:8, 22; 13:5; Gal. 6:4; Eph. 5:10; Phil. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:4 [2x]; 5:21; 1 Tim. 3:10; Heb. 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:7; 1 John 4:1).

*Luke 12:56 ... 56 “You hypocrites! You know how to **\*analyze** the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not **\*analyze** this present time? (NASB95)*

*Luke 14:19 ... 19 “Another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to **\*try** them out; please consider me excused.’ (NASB95)*

*Romans 1:28 ... 28 And just as they did not **\*see \*fit** to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, (NASB95)*

*Romans 2:18 ... 18 and know His will and **\*approve** the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, (NASB95)*

*Romans 12:2 ... 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may **\*prove** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (NASB95)*

*Romans 14:22 ... 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he **\*approves**. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 3:13 ... 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will **\*test** the quality of each man's work. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 11:28 ... 28 But a man must **\*examine** himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 16:3 ... 3 When I arrive, whomever you may **\*approve**, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 8:8 ... 8 I am not speaking this as a command, but as **\*proving** through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 8:22 ... 22 We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often **\*tested** and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 13:5 ... 5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; **\*examine** yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test? (NASB95)*

*Galatians 6:4 ... 4 But each one must **\*examine** his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. (NASB95)*

*Ephesians 5:10 ... 10 **\*trying** to **\*learn** what is pleasing to the Lord. (NASB95)*

*Philippians 1:10 ... 10 so that you may **\*approve** the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; (NASB95)*

*1 Thessalonians 2:4 ... 4 but just as we have been **\*approved** by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who **\*examines** our hearts. (NASB95)*

*1 Thessalonians 5:21 ... 21 But **\*examine** everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; (NASB95)*

*1 Timothy 3:10 ... 10 These men must also first be **\*tested**; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 1:7 ... 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though **\*tested** by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (NASB95)*

*1 John 4:1 ... 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **\*test** the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (NASB95)*

## **The Noun Dokimasía**

Thomas defines the noun δοκιμασία [dokimasía] as from dokimazō [1381a], meaning “a testing, a proving” [1381b].

BDAG say δοκιμασία, ας, ἡ refers to “an examination for genuineness, *testing, examination.*”

This word occurs 1x in the NT (Heb. 3:9).

*Hebrews 3:9 ... 9 Where your fathers tried Me by **\*testing** Me, And saw My works for forty years. (NASB95)*

## **The Noun Dokimē**

Thomas defines the noun δοκιμή [dokimē] as from dokimos [1384], meaning “(the process or result of) trial, proving, approval” [1382].

BDAG say δοκιμή, ἡς, ἡ refers to “(1) a testing process, *test, ordeal*; (2) the experience of going through a test with special reference to the result, *standing a test, character.*”

This word occurs 7x in the NT (Rom. 5:4 [2x]; 2 Cor. 2:9; 8:2; 9:13; 13:3; Phil. 2:22).

*Romans 5:4 ... 4 and perseverance, **\*proven \*character**; and **\*proven \*character, hope**; (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 2:9 ... 9 For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the **\*test**, whether you are obedient in all things. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 8:2 ... 2 that in a great **\*ordeal** of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 9:13 ... 13 Because of the **\*proof** given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 13:3 ... 3 since you are seeking for **\*proof** of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. (NASB95)*

*Philippians 2:22 ... 22 But you know of his **\*proven \*worth**, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. (NASB95)*

## **The Noun Dokimion**

Thomas defines δοκίμιον [dokimion] as from dokimos [1384], meaning “a testing” [1383].

BDAG say δοκίμιον, ου, τό refers to “(1) the process or means of determining the genuineness of something, *testing, means of testing*; (2) genuineness as result of a test, *genuine, without alloy*.”

This word occurs 2x in the NT (James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:7).

*James 1:3 ... 3 knowing that the **\*testing** of your faith produces endurance. (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 1:7 ... 7 so that the **\*proof** of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (NASB95)*

### **The Negative Adjective Adokimos**

Thomas defines the adjective ἀδόκιμος [adokimos] as a compound of the neg. pref. and 1384, meaning “not standing the test, rejected” [96b].

BDAG say ἀδόκιμος, ου means “‘not standing the test’, then unqualified, worthless, base of persons, of things.”

This word occurs 8x in the NT (Rom. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:27; 2 Cor. 13:5, 6, 7; 2 Tim. 3:8; Titus 1:16; Heb. 6:8).

*Romans 1:28 ... 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a **\*depraved** mind, to do those things which are not proper, (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 9:27 ... 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be **\*disqualified**. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 13:5 ... 5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you **\*fail the \*test**? (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 13:6 ... 6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not **\*fail the \*test**. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 13:7 ... 7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear **\*unapproved**. (NASB95)*

*2 Timothy 3:8 ... 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, **\*rejected** in regard to the faith. (NASB95)*

*Titus 1:16 ... 16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and **\*worthless** for any good deed. (NASB95)*

Hebrews 6:8 ... 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is **\*worthless** and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned. (NASB95)

## **Sorted**

### **Physical Testing**

Of the Earth and Sky (Luke 12:54-56)

*Luke 12:54-56 ... 54 And He was also saying to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘A shower is coming,’ and so it turns out. 55 “And when you see a south wind blowing, you say, ‘It will be a hot day,’ and it turns out that way. 56 “You hypocrites! You know how to **\*analyze** [1381a] the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not **\*analyze** [1381a] this present time? (NASB95)*

Of Land and Oxen (Luke 14:16-19)

*Luke 14:16-19 ... 16 But He said to him, “A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; 17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ 18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.’ 19 “Another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to **\*try** [1381a] them out; please consider me excused.’ (NASB95)*

### **Spiritual Testing**

The Bible also speaks of Spiritual Testing (2 Cor. 13:1-8).

*2 Corinthians 13:1-8 ... 1 This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. 2 I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest as well, that if I come again I will not spare anyone, 3 since you are seeking for **\*proof** [1382] of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. 4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you. 5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; **\*examine** [1381a] yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you **\*fail the \*test** [96b]? 6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not **\*fail the \*test** [96b]. 7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear **\*approved** [1384], but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear **\*unapproved** [96b]. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth. (NASB95)*

## The Testing of God

### **Proper**

Proper Testing (Rom. 12:1-2).

*Romans 12:1-2 ... 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may **\*prove** [1381a] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (NASB95)*

### **Improper**

Improper Testing (Heb. 3:7-11).

*Hebrews 3:7-11 ... 7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by **\*testing** [1381a] Me, And saw My works for forty years. 10 “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’; 11 As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ” (NASB95)*

## The Testing of Man

### **Self-Examination**

We must engage in self-examination (1 Cor. 11:28; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:4).

*1 Corinthians 11:28 ... 28 But a man must **\*examine** [1381a] himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 13:5 ... 5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; **\*examine** [1381a] yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you— unless indeed you **\*fail the \*test** [96b]? (NASB95)*

*Galatians 6:4 ... 4 But each one must **\*examine** [1381a] his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. (NASB95)*

### **Brotherly Examination**

We should engage in brotherly examination (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:22; 9:13; 13:6-7; 1 Tim. 3:10; Phil. 2:22).

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 ... 1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. 3 When I arrive, whomever you may **\*approve** [1381a], I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; 4 and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me. (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 8:22 ... 22 We have sent with them our brother, whom we have often **\*tested** [1381a] and found diligent in many things, but now even more diligent because of his great confidence in you. (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 9:13 ... 13 Because of the **\*proof** [1382] given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all, (NASB95)

2 Corinthians 13:6-7 ... 6 But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not **\*fail the \*test** [96b]. 7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear **\*approved** [1384], but that you may do what is right, even though we may appear **\*unapproved** [96b]. (NASB95)

1 Timothy 3:10 ... 10 These men [Deacons] must also first be **\*tested** [1381a]; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. (NASB95)

Philippians 2:22 ... 22 But you know of his [Timothy] **\*proven \*worth** [1382], that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. (NASB95)

## **Circumstantial Examination**

We experience circumstantial examination (2 Cor. 8:1-2; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-7).

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 ... 1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great **\*ordeal** [1382] of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. (NASB95)

James 1:2-4 ... 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the **\*testing** [1383] of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (NASB95)

1 Peter 1:6-7 ... 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the **\*proof** [1383] of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though **\*tested** [1381a] by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (NASB95)



## **Divine Examination**

We undergo Divine examination (Rom. 16:10; 1 Cor. 3:12-13; 2 Cor. 10:18; 1 Thess. 2:3-4).

*Romans 16:10 ... 10 Greet Apelles, the **\*approved** [1384] in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 3:12-13 ... 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will **\*test** [1381a] the quality of each man's work. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 10:18 ... 18 For it is not he who commends himself that is **\*approved** [1384], but he whom the Lord commends. (NASB95)*

*1 Thessalonians 2:3-4 ... 3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been **\*approved** [1381a] by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who **\*examines** [1381a] our hearts. (NASB95)*

## **Requirements for Passing the Test**

We must manifest knowledge (Eph. 5:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:15).

*Ephesians 5:8-10 ... 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 **\*trying to \*learn** [1381a] what is pleasing to the Lord. (NASB95)*

*2 Timothy 2:15 ... 15 Be diligent to present yourself **\*approved** [1384] to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (NASB95)*

We must manifest consistency (Rom. 2:17-22; 14:18, 22).

*Romans 2:17-22 ... 17 But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God, 18 and know His will and **\*approve** [1381a] the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, 21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? (NASB95)*

*Romans 14:18 ... 18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and **\*approved** [1384] by men. (NASB95)*

*Romans 14:22 ... 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he **\*approves** [1381a]. (NASB95)*

We must manifest discernment (Phil. 1:9-10; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1).

*Philippians 1:9-10 ... 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may **\*approve** [1381a] the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; (NASB95)*

*1 Thessalonians 5:21 ... 21 But **\*examine** [1381a] everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; (NASB95)*

*1 John 4:1 ... 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **\*test** [1381a] the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (NASB95)*

We must manifest obedience (1 Cor. 9:26-27; 11:18-19; 2 Cor. 2:9; 8:7-8).

*1 Corinthians 9:26-27 ... 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be **\*disqualified** [96b]. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 11:18-19 ... 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are **\*approved** [1384] may become evident among you. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 2:9 ... 9 For to this end also I wrote, so that I might put you to the **\*test** [1382], whether you are obedient in all things. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 8:7-8 ... 7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also. 8 I am not speaking this as a command, but as **\*proving** [1381a] through the earnestness of others the sincerity of your love also. (NASB95)*

## **Conclusion**

The benefits of passing the test (Rom. 5:3-4; James 1:2-4, 12; 1 Pet. 1:6-7).

*Romans 5:3-4 ... 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, **\*proven \*character** [1382]; and **\*proven \*character** [1382], hope; (NASB95)*

*James 1:2-4 ... 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the **\*testing** [1383] of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (NASB95)*

*James 1:12 ... 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been **\*approved** [1384], he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (NASB95)*

*1 Peter 1:6-7 ... 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the **\*proof** [1383] of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though **\*tested** [1381a] by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (NASB95)*

The danger of failing the test (Rom. 1:28-32; 2 Tim. 3:8-9; Titus 1:15-16; Heb. 6:7-8).

*Romans 1:28-32 ... 28 And just as they did not **\*see \*fit** [1381a] to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a **\*depraved** [96b] mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (NASB95)*

*2 Timothy 3:8-9 ... 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, **\*rejected** [96b] in regard to the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also. (NASB95)*

*Titus 1:15-16 ... 15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and **\*worthless** [96b] for any good deed. (NASB95)*

*Hebrews 6:7-8 ... 7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is **\*worthless** [96b] and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned. (NASB95)*