

Divine Approval or Rejection

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8/10/2008

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].

Various Testings

The Bible speaks of physical testing (Luke 12:54-56; 14:16-19).

The Bible also speaks of spiritual testing (2 Cor. 13:1-8).

The Testing of God

The Bible speaks of Proper Testing (Rom. 12:1-2).

The Bible also speaks of Improper Testing (Heb. 3:7-11).

The Testing of Man

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

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).

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

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

Requirements for Passing the Test

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

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